

Hafa Adai!

Cannabis commission expects bumps with medical regs. **PAGE 2**  
NWS warns of strong winds, high surf this week. **PAGE 8**

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## Report: 30 named in subpoena



By ERWIN ENCINARES  
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REPORTER

**L**eaked records suggest that financial transactions between casino operator Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC and a total of 30 individuals are being sought for presentation to a grand jury investigation that has ensnared IPI and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and his family.

An online news outlet, Kandit News Group, reported over the weekend that the IPI records custodian has been commanded to bring

See SUBPOENA on Page 4

### NEW HOTEL

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Triple J Enterprises Inc. chair Robert H. Jones, fifth from right, Triple J chief operating officer and president Jeff Jones, fourth from right, Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, center, and Lt. Gov. Arnold Palacios, partially hidden, second from left, lead the ribbon-cutting for the four-story Surfrider Resort Hotel in Chalan Kanoa last Friday afternoon.

Story and more photos on Page 13

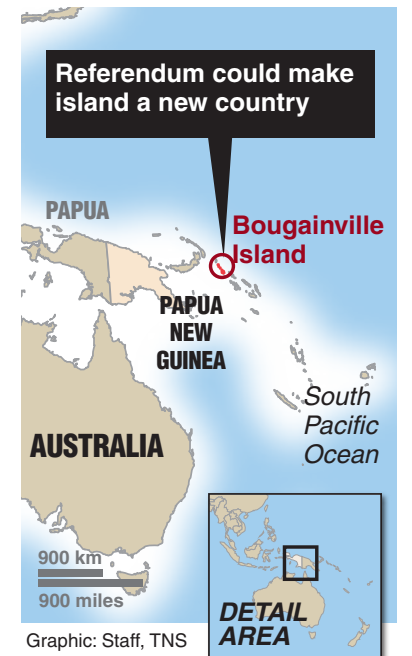
## Bougainville vote could help create world's newest nation

By NICK PERRY  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand** (AP)—The Pacific people of Bougainville on Saturday began voting in a historic referendum to decide if they want to become the world's newest nation by gaining independence from Papua New Guinea.

The referendum runs over two

See BOUGAINVILLE on Page 4



Graphic: Staff, TNS

## Torres mum on impeachment talks

By ERWIN ENCINARES  
erwin\_encinares@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres would not comment on impeachment talks that are making the rounds on social media and despite a member of the House of Representatives already voicing an opinion on the matter.

Torres, who was attending an event in Chalan Kanoa last Friday afternoon, did not respond when

asked if he wanted to comment on possible impeachment talks against his administration.

The House minority bloc has yet to issue a unified statement about the matter.

In an interview last week, House minority leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune* that he is looking to meet with members of the House minority—Reps. Sheila Babauta (Ind-

See TORRES on Page 4

## INSIDE



### LOCAL

Over a hundred people gather for the very first "Fun-Raise-Her" Dinner at Fiesta.

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### NATION

Michael Bloomberg will not accept political donations nor will he take a salary.

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### LIFE & STYLE

Prince Andrew still faces hurdles despite his decision to step down from royal duties.

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## Local

### Cannabis commission expects bumps with medical regs

By ERWIN ENCINARES  
 erwin\_encinares@saipantribune.com  
 REPORTER

The Commonwealth Cannabis Commission expects some bumps along the way as they start work on the medical aspect of cannabis regulations that the commission is writing right now.

Cannabis Commission chair Nadine Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* last week that, while she cannot put a specific timeline on the expected completion of the cannabis regulations, the medicinal regulations for cannabis might be the most challenging.

"Although the commercial [aspect of the regulations] are lengthy, we feel that medicinal may be the most challenging category only because of the lab perspective of it. It's very costly to open up a [cannabis-focused] laboratory," she said in an interview over the weekend.

She assured, though, the commission intends to work on this aspect with the Commonwealth Health Care Corp., the Division of Public Health, and even the Bureau of Environmental Health.

"...[The commission will

work together to] make sure that we are not overstepping our boundaries on certain topics areas," she said.

About opening up a cannabis-focused laboratory, Deleon Guerrero noted that there is interest, although she noted that the commission has not met with the interested individual.

"If that happens, then we are well on our way of pushing out the [regulations faster]," she said.

Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* in a previous interview that the commission was, as of last Thursday morning, about halfway through the cannabis regulations.

She noted that the home-grown regulations for cannabis are still under review at the Office of the Attorney General for legal sufficiency, while the commercial regulations were discussed at their weekly meeting last Thursday.

The Cannabis Commission has until March 20, 2020, to come up with the regulations governing the use, production, and selling of cannabis in the CNMI. March 20, 2020 marks exactly 180 days since the creation of the commission after Gov. Ralph DLG Torres

swore into office Saipan representatives Deleon Guerrero and Matt Deleon Guerrero, Rota representative Thomas Songsong, Tinian representative Journie Hofschneider, and Northern Islands representative Valentino Taisacan last Sept. 12, 2019.

### Holiday closures at AMP

The American Memorial Park Visitor Center will be closed on the following dates:

- Nov. 26, 2019 (11am – 1pm)
- Nov. 28, 2019, Thanksgiving Day
- Dec. 25, 2019, Christmas Day
- Jan. 1, 2020, New Year's Day

The rest of the park will remain open to the public.

Park staff would like to encourage the public to explore the Visitor Center. With the exception of the holidays, the visitor center is open every day from 9am to 4pm.

For more information about this or other happenings at the park, contact lead park ranger Brooke Nevitt at 234-7207 or 2020 or via email [brooke\\_nevitt@nps.gov](mailto:brooke_nevitt@nps.gov). (NPS)



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## Jim Beighley is hired to oversee IT&E, IP&E, ITC

Jim Beighley has joined Citadel Holdings Inc. as chief executive officer of Pacific Islands and Group Head of Strategy and M&A (mergers and acquisitions.)

Citadel Holdings, based out of Manila, is the parent company of PTI Pacific Inc. which does business as IT&E, a telecommunications provider in the CNMI and Guam; IP&E, which operates Shell and Foodys; and Fujita Property Guam, Inc.

Beighley will play a significant role in growing Citadel in the region. As group head of Strategy and M&A, he will spearhead strategic initiatives for Guam businesses and expansions plans based in Manila.

"We are excited to announce Jim's appointment. He is an exceptional leader, and the Group looks forward to supporting him as he leads Citadel in providing the best services to our customers Guam, CNMI and beyond," said Jose Ricardo "Ricky" Delgado, president and CEO of Citadel Holdings Inc.

Beighley has been a member of IT&E's board of directors since January 2011. He has also served various roles at DFS over a span of 21 years, including managing director, Pacific Division (Guam, Saipan, Hawaii) and, most recently, as executive vice president, Strategy and Business Development for DFS globally. Beighley is a graduate of University of California, Santa Barbara with a bachelor's in Economics and National Chengchi University.

"I'm looking forward to joining Citadel at this very exciting time in the Group's evolution," said Beighley. "We have a number of well-run businesses who are all leaders in their sector, a group of very talented executives and the backing of world class investor partners. I look forward to contributing to the Group's growth in the Pacific region, into Southeast Asia and into new sectors."

For close to 15 years, Citadel Holdings has expanded its portfolio in the Marianas and the region.

Citadel Holdings acquired

CNMI telecommunications provider GTE in 2005, which was renamed to PTI Pacifica. Later it added IT&E Overseas in Guam to its portfolio

in 2008. Today, IT&E serves about 222,000 residents in the CNMI and Guam.

IP&E was added to the group in 2011. IP&E operates

13 Shell stations in Guam, eight stations on Saipan and eight in Palau.

In 2016, Citadel Holdings purchased Fujita Property

Guam Inc., which manages the Guam International Trade Center.

Earlier this year, work began on the Group's lat-

est venture, My Office. My Office is a coworking space located at ITC that offers the amenities of a traditional office. (PR)



Beighley

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# Mayor Atalig, girlfriend ask to delay trial anew

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A former Federal Bureau of Investigation special agent hired by Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig and his girlfriend, Evelyn Atalig, to serve as their private investigator on corruption charges filed against them, apparently needs more time to complete his investigation.

Attorneys David G. Banes and Steven P. Pixley, counsels for Efraim Atalig and Evelyn Atalig, respectively, informed

the U.S. District Court for the CNMI last Friday that former FBI special agent Jeremy Wolfe needs 30 more days—for a total of 60 days—to complete his investigation.

The trial is currently set to start on Jan. 8, 2020.

The Ataligs asked the court to postpone the trial by one month and reset the pre-trial conference and pre-trial deadlines accordingly.

Banes and Pixley said Wolfe is the only qualified and willing investigator that any

defendant can use in the entire CNMI. They said the Ataligs cannot simply hire an alternative investigator.

Banes and Pixley said Wolfe has conducted substantial work including interviewing potential witnesses on Rota and Saipan, but still needs time to finish the investigation.

The lawyers said Wolfe was recently retained to work on another criminal matter that is time-sensitive and will have to allocate a substantial

portion of his time in the next two months to this other criminal matter.

Wolfe also runs a small business that requires his personal attention.

The Ataligs hired Wolfe as their private investigator last September after former Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services commissioner Claudio K. Norita, who was first hired as their private investigator, could not continue with the investigation due to conflict of interest

because of his employment by the CNMI government.

Norita asked to be relieved from the case as his company, Trublu Resources, was appointed by the CNMI government to provide census services of housing units on island.

Banes and Pixley said the Ataligs are also still trying to obtain information from the CNMI Department of Finance regarding deductions from Efraim Atalig's paychecks for travel expenses.

The lawyers said it is possible that those deductions were made by Finance regarding a trip that is involved in this case and therefore are relevant to the defense.

They said defendants are still requesting from the U.S. government notes, audio, or video records, in electronic or written format, of the inter-

views of witnesses conducted by the FBI or the Office of the Public Auditor.

Banes also informed the court that he, as lead counsel for Efraim Atalig, was ill at the end of October 2019 and for the first half of November, and missed a significant amount of work.

The charges against the Ataligs now involve at least eight trips taken by the Ataligs at different times in 2018 to Guam, Palau, the U.S. mainland, South Korea, and Saipan.

The Ataligs are being charged jointly with wire fraud, theft concerning programs receiving federal funds, and conspiracy to commit wire fraud and federal funds theft. Each faces a separate charge of false statement.

The defendants have pleaded not guilty.

## PSS to mark Education Week

By **MARC A. VENUS**  
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REPORTER

Hopwood Middle School teacher Victor Cabrera will be honored this week as the CNMI State Teacher of the Year for the 2019-2020 school year, when the Public School System celebrates Education Week from Nov. 25 to 30. In addition, Nov. 27 has been declared Education Day.

The CNMI Board of Edu-

cation proclaimed Education Week last week prior to their monthly meeting at the BOE conference room on Capital Hill.

BOE chair Janice Tenorio said this will be the 31st year of PSS celebrating public education in the CNMI and thanked all the hard work that PSS and the BOE have done throughout the years.

Acting Education commissioner Jacky Quitugua

said the occasion will celebrate the accomplishments of students, teachers, teacher aides, support staff, administrators, and all members of the community for their contribution to the education system of the CNMI.

Quitugua invites the public to join the celebration.

This year's theme is "Education: Encourage Dreams, Sharpens Abilities, and Broadens Opportunities." This was

submitted by Oleai Elementary School student Maxima Carreon, who won PSS' theme-writing competition.

Previous CNMI State Teacher of the Year Roselle Carreon, who spoke at the proclamation signing, said that education is the foundation of what makes the CNMI great and, with the continued support from the CNMI, education can only get greater despite anything that tried to hinder the progress of education in the CNMI.

## BOUGAINVILLE

From Page 1

weeks and is a key part of a 2001 peace agreement that ended a brutal civil war in which at least 15,000 people died in the cluster of islands to the east of the Papua New Guinea mainland.

Experts believe people the 250,000 people of Bougainville will vote overwhelming in favor of independence ahead of the other option, which is greater autonomy. But the vote will not be the final word.

The referendum is nonbinding, and a vote for independence would then need to be negotiated by leaders from both Bougainville and Papua New Guinea. The final say would then go to lawmakers in the Papua New Guinea Parliament.

Gianluca Rampolla, the

United Nations resident coordinator in Papua New Guinea, said the world body has been working hard to ensure the vote is peaceful, transparent, inclusive and credible. He said there are 40 U.N. staffers on the ground and more than 100 international observers.

Rampolla said he thought it unlikely there would be violence during voting.

"They've been waiting 19 years for this historic moment," he said. "I think they will be left with joy."

Just over 200,000 people are eligible to vote in the referendum, with the results due to be announced in mid-December. Rampolla said the extended voting period of two weeks was due to the region's rugged terrain.

"There are people coming on boats. There are people walking," he said. "It's the rainy season. There are rough seas. Flexibility is needed to

adjust on the ground."

John Momis, the president of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, told reporters Friday the region stood on the verge of a new socio-economic and political order.

"We are trailblazers forging a new path into the unknown with the sheer determination to face any challenge that comes our way," he said. "We will face this together as one people and one voice to decide our ultimate political future."

In his weekly column in the Post-Courier newspaper, Papua New Guinea Prime Minister James Marape said complex discussions and negotiations would need to take place after the referendum before a political settlement could be reached.

The violence in Bougainville began in the late 1980s, triggered by conflict over an enormous opencast copper mine at Panguna. The mine

was a huge export earner for Papua New Guinea, but many in Bougainville felt they got no benefit and resented the pollution and disruption to their traditional way of living.

The mine has remained shut since the conflict. Some believe it could provide a future revenue source for Bougainville should it become independent.

The civil war lasted for a decade before the peace agreement was signed. The other key aspects of the agreement were a weapons disposal plan and greater autonomy for the region ahead of Saturday's vote.

Rampolla, the U.N. official, said the peace agreement had been one of the few in the world that had lasted so long. He said it could end as a success story if the referendum and subsequent negotiations resulted in an outcome that everybody could support.

he told *Saipan Tribune* previously. "It is all allegations and nothing is founded. There are no grounds at this point. It is very premature."

"We must let the process go through. Let the judicial system go through. It's only an investigation and nothing has been proven," he added.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation executed search warrants all over Saipan last Nov. 7, 2019 through Nov. 8, 2019, including at the Office of the Governor and an office of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC and several other offices.

## SUBPOENA

From Page 1

all documents pertaining to 30 entities before a federal grand jury—seven of which are individuals who did business as consulting agencies and 21 individuals who are directly named.

A summon refers to an order to appear before a judge or court proceeding. The summons specifically commands the IPI records custodian to present financial transactions between IPI and the mentioned individuals before a grand jury. It was earlier reported that the grand jury will be impaneled in January 2020.

The federal grand jury subpoena attachment commands the IPI records custodian to bring all documents stored in IPI's main data center related to financial transactions between IPI and Alfred Chi-Yam Yue; Ron Li Anderson; Viola Alepuyo; Marianas Consulting Services LLC; Legend CNMI Realty LLC; Antonio C. Magofna; Diego Benavente and Associates; Blue Continent Communications Inc.; Branda Y. Tenorio dba BTY Consulting Services; Carmen Fernandez; Charles V. Cepeda dba CVC Consulting; Christopher A. Concepcion dba CA Professional Services; David J. Attao dba Dattao Consulting Services; Double Lee Corp.; Felix R. Nogis dba FelNo Consulting Services; Francisco C. Sablan; Grant Gibson; Gregorio M. Camacho dba GMC Consultant Services; Jack Taitague; Pacific Edge Consulting; Jose T. Limes dba J. Limes Consulting Services; Joseph M. Diaz; K. L. Carr Enterprises Inc.; Keli A. Tenorio; Marianas Consultancy Ser-

vices LLC; Michael W. Dotts; Ni Ming; Serafin A. Camacho; Thomas A. Tebuteb; and TK3 Enterprises LLC.

Yue's Marianas Consultancy Services LLC was one of the offices that the FBI searched on Saipan in early November 2019, while *Saipan Tribune* previously reported that Anderson, reportedly the owner of Legend Realty Saipan, left the island for China two days before the FBI searched his office.

Alepuyo is currently a legal counsel of IPI; Kandit News Group reported that she was also allegedly paid \$25,000 a month to run Torres' re-election campaign in 2018.

Former CNMI lieutenant governor Diego Benavente was also listed in the summons, along with current Northern Marianas College board chair Charles Cepeda dba CVC Consulting; CNMI Office of Planning and Development deputy director Chris Concepcion dba CA Professional Services; Northern Marianas Technical Institute director David J. Attao dba Dattao Consulting Services; and former NMC president Carmen Fernandez.

The subpoena further commands the custodian to bring all documents relating to real estate transactions in the CNMI, including purchase agreements, long-term lease agreements, escrow records, title searches, appraisals, and more, including all records relating to fee or commission agreements.

All documents and records stored in IPI's main data center relating to Billion Ventures (CNMI) Limited and all documents and records stored in IPI relating to Wu Chia-Lien were also included in the summons.

## TORRES

From Page 1

Saipan), Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Donald Manglona (Ind-Rota), and Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan)—so they could come up with the minority bloc's position on the issue.

"I am still working with the minority members in coming up with a unified statement to address these concerns," he said. He noted previously that two members of the House minority were off-island at the time.

He noted, though, that one

House minority bloc member's statement is not representative of the whole bloc.

Sablan noted in a previous interview that the Legislature has the authority to investigate other branches of the government—including the Executive Branch—as provided by the CNMI Constitution.

"Any impeachment process, should we come to that, would be separate from the criminal process, though evidence that is presented in criminal proceeding may be examined by the Legislature as well," she had said.

Torres' chief of staff, Angel

Demapan, later described her statement as "political posturing" and that any talks of impeachment would be "self-aggrandizing."

*Saipan Tribune* also reached out to House Speaker Blas "B.J." Jonathan Attao (R-Saipan) for comments but he, too, declined. House vice speaker Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), when approached, noted that he would be more comfortable having an opinion on the matter after the federal investigation concludes.

"I don't think we should be talking about [impeachment],"



## Misuse of debit card gets man arrested; 3 others arrested

Police arrested last week four men for allegedly committing separate criminal offenses on Saipan.

The suspects—Clifford Jack Palacios, 31; Peter John Aldan Blas, 29; Mohammed Jahangir Buihyan, 40; and Esvi Frances Meinanew, 46—were brought before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho last Friday for their initial appearance.

Palacios was arrested on charges of 36 counts of misuse of financial instruments. A \$20,000 cash bail was imposed on him.

Blas was arrested on charges of assault and battery, obstructing justice, and disturbing the peace. The judge imposed a \$750 cash bail on Blas.

Buihyan was arrested on charges of assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and child abuse. He posted a \$300 cash bail.

Meinanew was arrested on charges of assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. He was freed upon posting a \$50 cash bail.

Preliminary hearing for all four will be on Dec. 27 at 10am.

In Palacios' case, a police detective said that his review of bank statements last Oct. 31 showed that the suspect made 36 transactions through Western Union using his employer's debit card, totaling \$15,614.

The detective said the amount, including \$1,521 in fees for making the transactions, and purchases for game products, depleted the employer's bank account.

Police began their investigation after businessman Paul Zak went to the Department of Public Safety's Criminal Investigation Bureau last Sept. 26 to

report the theft and misuse of their company's credit card.

Zak and Sam Rayburn are owners of Inter-Island Transport Co., which is in the business of repairing used motorcycles and automobiles.

Apparently, Zak went to First Hawaiian Bank last Aug. 26 to withdraw \$3,000 in cash and was informed by the bank that their business account was on overdraft.

Zak learned from the bank statements that several of the transactions were made from San Francisco, California to Western Union on Saipan.

Zak went to Western Union and was informed that his employee, Palacios, came to Western Union several times to pick up cash.

According to Zak's business partner, Rayburn, he never approved any of the withdrawals or charges on their bank account. Neither could he have sent money to Palacios from San Francisco because he never went to San Francisco.

In the case against Blas, the defendant was allegedly drunk and challenged several men at Sugar Dock in Chalan Kanoa to a fight last Wednesday afternoon.

When a police officer arrested Blas, he allegedly repeatedly kicked the officer. The defendant also allegedly threatened to kill the officer when he is released from jail.

Blas was just released last Nov. 3 after a criminal conviction. He is still on probation.

In Buihyan's case, the defendant, who was intoxicated,

allegedly repeatedly hit the head of his teenage daughter, who was sleeping in the living room of their house in Kobler-

ville last Nov. 4.

In Meinanew's case, the defendant was allegedly stalking his former girlfriend, who had

a temporary restraining order against him. Police arrested Meinanew on a warrant last week. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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# MTEC Tourism Summit on Jan.23, 2020

The Marianas Tourism Education Council Tourism Summit for CNMI Public School System students will be held on Jan. 23, 2020, with E-Land Group of Companies becoming the first major sponsor to support the outreach event.

The theme of this year's summit, co-organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority, is "VolunTOURISM: Learn today. Lead tomorrow." reflecting the opportunities available to students to engage with the industry and learn today in preparation for the leadership roles they will take in the industry in the future.

This year's summit will be held at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

"These students are the future leaders of our islands," said MTEC chair Vicky Benavente. "Learning early in life about the importance of the tourism and hospitality industry is crucial to the development of their role in our community, whether they decide to choose a career in this industry or not."

Last Nov. 20, E-land Group donated \$2,000 to the summit to help sponsor hundreds of students expected to attend. The students will be from MY WAVE (Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusias-



E-Land Group of Companies donates \$2,000 to the Marianas Tourism Education Council Tourism Summit on Jan. 23, 2020, at Kensington Hotel Saipan. From left are Kensington Corporate Social Responsibility manager Lindsay Ahn, Kensington HR training manager Joeme Villegas, MTEC board member Catherine Perry, MTEC vice chair Wendi Herring, MTEC chair Vicky Benavente, Pacific Islands Club Saipan general manager Gloria Cavanagh, PIC Saipan assistant general manager Dennis Seo, Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects specialist Ray Villagomez, and Kensington assistant general manager Ginger Choi.

MTEC

tically) Clubs in grades 5-12 chosen by their respective schools to participate.

"Young people are the future of the tourism industry, and E-Land appreciates the work that MTEC does to educate them and engage them in

discussions that help them understand and take ownership of their role in tourism, even at a young age," said general manager Gloria Cavanagh of Pacific Islands Club Saipan, an E-Land Group hotel. "We're excited for what the students

are going to learn, and we look forward to working with them as early as high school and through and after their collegiate or trade studies."

Approximately 400 students are expected for the summit, which will also feature exhibits by MVA, Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, and others. Interested sponsors may contact MVA Community Projects specialist Jack Aranda at jaranda@mymarianas.com or MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas at mduenas@mymarianas.com or call 1 (670) 664-3210 for a spon-

sorship package.

"The annual MTEC Tourism Summit for MY WAVE Club students is an important part of the MVA's outreach to the community and an educational event that the students really look forward to," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "Through engaging speakers, informative exhibits, and thought-provoking exercises, we work to light a spark in the participants to get excited about tourism and what they can learn about—and contribute to—the industry."

MTEC was formed in 2002

to heighten the community's awareness of the importance of tourism to the wellbeing of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands. MTEC's stated mission is three-fold: to foster community understanding and support of the visitor industry; educate the general public, especially school students, about the value, social benefits, and economic contributions made to the community by the visitor industry; and to instill, improve and promote the "Hafa Adai-Tirow" hospitality spirit throughout the island community. (MTEC)

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**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
RFP NO.: DPW20-RFP-001**

**SUBMISSION DATE: December 18, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

**"Topographic and As-Built Survey  
of Natibu Recreational Sports Facilities,  
Precinct IV, Saipan"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set.

A PRE-PROPOSAL SITE VISIT WILL BE HELD ON **December 9, 2019 AT 9:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME** AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS CONFERENCE ROOM.

QUESTIONS MUST BE MADE IN WRITING TO Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS DECEMBER 13, 2019**. THESE QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED WITHIN THREE (3) BUSINESS DAYS AND WILL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ JAMES A. ADA**  
 SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

**/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON**  
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**VOX POPULI****What women's issue should the CNMI focus on?**

By IVA MAURIN  
iva\_maurin@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



"Employment for women. You never know if you would be by yourself later on. [Women who are employed] can survive without men. If you are employed, no matter what happens, you can go and move on with your own life, and can really support your kids. You don't feel sorry for yourself. You can stand on your own."

—AnnaMae Adaza



"The No.1 issue that we don't often talk about is the state of mind—women's mental health. Lots of women face the pressure to move up the ladder quickly, a lot of women face the pressure to get married or have children. All these pressures can collectively damage women's self-identity, their perception of themselves. Are they good enough? Are they worthy? Mental health is very critical and it is something that we don't talk about often, but we should."

—Jackie Che



"Leadership in women. It is good now that we have Rep. Tina Sablan, [Rep.] Janet Maratita, and also Rep. Sheila Babauta, but I think we need more. We need more women

leadership so that younger women can feel welcome enough to become our own leaders instead of just depending on men and just looking up at men.

—Laurina Sebaklim



"We should have more female leaders in power. It has been forever since we have had anyone of important notice, [to be] female, for that matter, on the paper, when it says governor, lieutenant governor, chairperson, all of that.

So I really do feel we should be having younger women looking into politics as a profession. We should have more young, feminine representation in the community.

—Victor Cabrera



"Equality in the workplace. Some women try their best, they work their hardest to get to the top, but they are discriminated by their gender, instead of the knowledge that they have. With men, they might have the credentials, but they won't have what women possess in order to build something. We get paid not by what we know, or the credentials we have, but by the gender we are born with."

—Julie San Nicolas



"Education and health because, nowadays, it is important to be taking care of ones' self, especially with so many sick [people] going around. For education, it is important for children to be educated."

—Lyn Reyes

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# NWS warns of strong winds, high surf this week

Strong trade winds are expected the next few days. These will cause hazardous marine conditions this week.

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center-State Warning Point, a fresh to strong trade-wind surge will cause windy conditions across the Marianas in the next few days, especially during the daytime hours.

A wind advisory is now in

effect for Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan, while a small craft advisory is in effect until 6am Tuesday.

A high surf advisory is also in effect until 6pm Friday. Hazardous seas watch remains in effect from Tuesday morning through late Thursday night.

A gale watch is in effect from Tuesday morning through late Thursday night.

East winds are projected at 25 to 30 mph with gusts to 40 mph. Strong winds can affect outdoor activity.

A wind advisory means that winds of 35 mph are expected. Winds this strong can make driving difficult, especially for high profile vehicles. Use extra caution and plan outdoor activity accordingly.

Winds associated with strong high pressure over the northwest Pacific will generate swell and seas that will continue to produce hazardous surf along north and east facing reefs this week.

Along north facing reefs, hazardous surf of 8 to 10 feet

will build to between 9 and 11 feet today, Monday. The surf could possibly increase to between 12 and 14 feet on Tuesday.

Along east facing reefs, hazardous surf of 10 to 12 feet will build to between 10 and 14 feet today. The surf could possibly build to between 16 and 20 feet on Tuesday, which would require a high surf warning.

A high risk of rip currents on north and east facing reefs will persist through this week.

If you become caught in

a rip current, remain calm. Do not exhaust yourself and stay afloat while waiting for help. If you have to swim out of a rip current, swim parallel to shore and back toward the beach when possible. Do not attempt to swim directly against a rip current as you will tire quickly.

The public is being advised to avoid venturing out along north and east facing reefs and beaches. Large breaking waves can knock you down and cause serious injuries.

Strong rip currents will be life threatening.

Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid sailing or boating in these conditions.

A hazardous seas watch is issued when the risk of hazardous seas of 15 feet or more has

Significantly increased but the specific timing and/or location is still uncertain. It is intended to provide additional lead time for mariners who may wish to consider altering their plans. *(Saipan Tribune)*

## USCG, partners hold 3-day operation at Saipan port

U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam partnered with local and federal agencies during a Multi-Agency Strike Force Operation that took place at the Saipan seaport from Nov. 12 to Nov. 15, 2019.

"The U.S. Coast Guard, CNMI Customs, and participating regulatory agencies are trusted partners in the region, and we are pleased to work with them to further enhance the safety and security of the

Marianas" said, Lt. Jonathan Girot, Coast Guard Sector Guam public affairs officer. "This operation brought together local and federal organizations to employ jurisdictional authorities of each agency in efforts to execute a successful joint container inspection operation. Our No. 1 priority is to ensure the safe transport of commercial goods in accordance with all federal and territorial laws and regula-

tions prior to making its way into the community."

The team conducted the mission to enhance the safe movement of cargo while detecting contraband moving through the port.

The operation resulted in 245 containerized cargo inspections, 80 narcotic sweeps, the detention of four containers, and five total deficiencies. A total of 30 agents, officers, and inspectors participated in



U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam partnered with local and federal agencies during a Multi-Agency Strike Force Operation that took place at the Saipan seaport from Nov. 12 to Nov. 15, 2019. USCG

this enforcement operation.

The U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Saipan, and U.S. Coast Guard 14th District legal office provided offsite assistance.

The operation brought together 13 regulatory and law enforcement agencies: U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Coast Guard Investigative Service, CNMI Customs, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, CNMI Bureau of Environmental Health, CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife, CNMI Office of the Attorney General, CNMI Department of Land and Natural Resources,

CNMI Quarantine, CNMI Brown Tree Snake Program, Drug Enforcement Administration, Saipan Task Force Office, and Homeland Security Investigations, Saipan Task Force Office.

The primary objective of the MASFO was to ensure compliance with federal and territorial regulations on the safe shipment of cargo. The op-

eration effort comprised multiple inspection teams located within the Port of Saipan. Leveraging the jurisdictional authorities of each agency, the interagency teams inspected freight containers and vehicles to ensure compliance with both international and domestic regulatory codes as well as CNMI Customs and territorial regulations. *(USCG)*

## Military training at FDM, Warning Area 13A, Warning Area 517, Radio Barrigada, Dandan

**ASAN, Guam**—The U.S. military will conduct training at Farallon de Medinilla from 10am to 2pm and 3pm to 4:30pm on Nov. 25, 27, and 29.

Training will be conducted within a 12-nautical mile radius of Farallon de Medinilla. For the duration of the exercise the general public, fishermen, and marine tour operators are advised to remain clear of these areas and monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

The Navy will also conduct training at Warning Area 517 from 7am to 5pm on Nov. 26 and from 7am to noon on Nov. 27. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Banks remain open. For the duration of the exercise, it is recommended the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators remain clear of the following coordinates: 13° 10'N/144° 30'E, 13°10'N/144° 42'E, 12° 50'N/144° 45'E, 11° 00'N/144° 45'E, 11° 00'N/143° 00'E, 11° 45'N/143° 00'E, and 12°

50°N/144° 30'E.

W-517 begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises.

The Navy will also conduct training at Radio Barrigada from 11am to 5pm on Nov. 27.

The public should be advised that training will be accompanied by the use of blanks and residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training.

The Navy will conduct training at the Dandan-Malojloj training site in Inarajan from 11am to 11:55pm on Nov. 25-26.

These types of trainings are designed to support combat readiness of military personnel and are critical to developing the skills needed to respond to operational missions throughout the region to ensure a stable, free and open Indo-Pacific. *(PR)*

## TO PROTECT SHARKS FROM FINNING

# House passes shark fin sales elimination act

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — The Animal Welfare Institute applauds the U.S. House of Representatives for passing the bipartisan Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act (H.R. 737) last Wednesday. The bill would prohibit the sale, purchase, and possession of shark fins in the United States, helping to curb an inhumane global trade that claims the lives of 73 million sharks each year.

Introduced in January by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) and Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX), the bill passed by a vote of 310-107 after amassing 288 cosponsors. A companion measure in the Senate (S. 877), introduced by Sens. Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), passed out of

committee earlier this year.

Shark finning is a cruel practice that entails cutting off a shark's fins—often while the shark is still alive—and throwing the mutilated body in the ocean, where the helplessly immobile shark will suffocate, bleed to death, or succumb to an attack by a predator.

"Sharks have existed for hundreds of millions of years on this planet, and yet these remarkable apex predators now face one of the biggest threats to their survival because of the demand for their fins," said AWI president Cathy Liss. "More than a quarter of shark species and their relatives are at risk of extinction. Passing legislation to clamp down on the global shark fin

trade is essential if we are going to protect sharks and maintain functioning marine ecosystems. We are grateful to Representatives Sablan and McCaul for their steadfast leadership and urge the Senate to quickly pass the Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act so that it can be signed into law."

Although tasteless, shark fins are considered a delicacy and used in traditional East Asian soups and other dishes. According to an online database maintained by AWI, nearly 200 restaurants across the country continue to offer shark fin products.

Congress has twice acted to curb the growing demand for shark fins. In 2000, Congress passed the Shark Finning Pro-

hibition Act, which banned the possession of shark fins in U.S. waters absent the rest of the shark's body. And in 2010, Congress passed the Shark Conservation Act, requiring fishermen in U.S. waters to bring sharks ashore whole, with their fins attached. Unfortunately, loopholes and lackluster enforcement have allowed shark finning to persist, with the United States playing a significant role in exporting fins around the world.

Twelve states and three territories have already enacted bans on selling shark fins in response to the dire threats facing sharks worldwide. In June, Canada, the largest importer of shark fins outside of Asia, banned shark fin imports and exports. *(PR)*



# Raising women leaders with CWA Fun-Raise-Her

By IVA MAURIN

iva\_maurin@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Over a hundred people gathered at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan last Friday, to celebrate and support women on the island for the very first “Fun-Raise-Her” Dinner organized by the CNMI Women’s Association.

CWA administrator Felicidad Ogomoro said the event helped raise funds so the association could pursue its objectives to provide more education opportunities, as well as training and development, that would empower women in the CNMI to become leaders.

“[CWA] is empowering our women to be strong leaders in the community, whether they are at home, in school, in the Legislature, [or] holding public positions,” she said.

CWA’s projects are focused on education and training and development for women and their families. The group is also doing job placements for unemployed women.

The association is currently helping facilitate training for

women entrepreneurs, those who are already in business and those who are planning to be in business.

“Through our collaboration with the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, we have already covered four areas,” Ogomoro said. “One, how to start a business; two, how to put together a business plan; three, how to put together the financial plan; and four, the marketing plan.”

The night’s guest speaker, Rowina O. Torres, who owns and founded Rufina Tropicals in As Lito, shared her life’s journey and its many turns before making it to the road of the ornamental plant export business.

“Tonight is about if I can, then you can, too. Find, discover, and explore yourselves,” Torres said. “Having big dreams and to aspire [for] the impossible is everyone’s birthright. Dreams do come true if you believe in you. Success requires endurance, remain focused. Do not let others pull you down.”

Torres’ journey ties with the event’s theme of building

resilience among women so they could grow and bloom into the strong, confident, empowered, and resilient individuals that they are.

CNMI first lady Diann Torres was at the fundraiser to support CWA for its role in uplifting women in the community.

“Our women deserve to be supported in every way, whether it be education [or] childcare,” the first lady said. “CWA took the initiative to lead women in the CNMI and has been providing services for women, which is very important. I support every organization that supports the women in our community.”

Aside from the training and development workshops, CWA will also soon start planning for the Women’s Summit, as well as the activities for the annual women’s month that will be held in March.

To join the association or for more information, contact CWA at 233-8978/9411, email [cwa.fogumoro@gmail.com](mailto:cwa.fogumoro@gmail.com), or visit the CWA Office (Building 1223) on Capital Hill.



Community members support women through the “Fun-Raise-Her” Dinner organized by the CNMI Women’s Association, held last Nov. 22, Friday, at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan.

IVA MAURIN



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## NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2020

**THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.**

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an **estimated** \$1,323,285.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of \$867,556.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); \$386,617.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, \$69,112.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2020.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

**Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning November 14, 2019. You may also obtain the application online at [www.nmhc.gov.net](http://www.nmhc.gov.net) in the section titled “Public Notice/Announcement” subsection “Community Planning Development”**

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by **March 31, 2020, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after March 31, 2020, will not be accepted.**

**A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.**

**The schedules for briefing are as follows:**

**February 12, 2020, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Tinian**  
**February 13, 2020, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Saipan**  
**February 14, 2020, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Rota**

**We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.**

For residents living on the island of Saipan, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in Garapan; Residents living on the island of Tinian, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in San Jose Village; and Residents living on the island of Rota, the briefing will be held at the Rota Mayor’s Office Conference Room in Tatachog.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Ms. Tricia Tenorio, Planner at 234-6866 or 234-9447.

/s/  
Jesse S. Palacios  
Corporate Director



The CNMI Women’s Association’s new board of directors, from left, Jovita Paulino, Cecilia Taitano, Cindy I. Deleon Guerrero, Linda Cabrera, Annie Reyes, and Annamae Adaza, during the “Fun-Raise-Her” Dinner organized by the CNMI Women’s Association last Nov. 22, Friday, at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan.

IVA MAURIN

## FCF Co. Ltd. agrees to acquire Bumble Bee Foods assets

**KAOHSIUNG, Taiwan**—FCF Co., Ltd. announced Friday that it has entered into a purchase agreement with California-based Bumble Bee Foods to acquire substantially all of the company’s assets and to ensure that the 120-year-old provider of healthy and nutritious shelf-stable seafood continues to serve its valued customers.

Bumble Bee is undertaking the proceeding under chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code in Delaware, U.S., and the Companies’ Creditors Ar-

rangement Act in Canada. Bumble Bee has received new financing commitments from its existing lenders that will provide sufficient liquidity to fund the business through the closing of the sale.

FCF’s proposal is subject to a court-supervised auction process designed to achieve the highest or otherwise best offer for Bumble Bee. Bumble Bee expects to conduct such auction in January and, if successful, FCF intends to close the acquisition during the first quarter of 2020.

“It has been a challenging time, but we believe strongly in the company, the executive leadership team, the employees, customer partners and vendors,” said FCF president Max Chou. “FCF values our 30-year business relationship, whereby we have consistently supplied Bumble Bee with sustainable and socially-responsible fishery products. We have undertaken a thorough and prudent review of the initiative and are excited to help position Bumble Bee for long-term success.” (PR)



# Opinion

Hafa Adair

## Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

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### EDITORIAL

## Trump can defend Hong Kong liberties and still stand firm on China trade

Congress this week stood up for Hong Kong's threatened freedoms by approving a bill that opens the door to possible sanctions—and at the same time binds the autonomous region up in the U.S.-China trade dispute. The next move belongs to President Trump, who could finally offer Hong Kong's protesters some badly needed moral support by signing the bill.

Hong Kong ostensibly stands apart from the rest of China, which since 1999 has for the most part left the region to govern its own internal affairs, retain its independent judiciary and respect its residents' civil rights. Its special status has also exempted Hong Kong from the tariffs and other trade sanctions that the Trump administration began imposing on Beijing last year.

But Hong Kongers have periodically felt the long arm of Beijing, notwithstanding the official promise of autonomy for another 30 years.

In February, that reach came in the form of a proposed extradition bill that could have permitted Hong Kongers to be sent to mainland China for prosecution. Widespread demonstrations led to the withdrawal of the bill, but that didn't stop the protests, which have only intensified. Protesters' demands now include voting rights, amnesty for demonstrators and an inquiry into police violence.

Protests this week at Hong Kong Polytechnic University turned into a siege as police fired tear gas and rubber bullets, and protesters hurled Molotov cocktails and shot arrows.

Last week, soldiers from the Hong Kong garrison of the People's Liberation Army (mainland China's military) helped clean debris from streets. The move was widely seen as a warning that the army stood ready to suppress protests.

As Trump has alternately scolded and courted China over trade, he has been disappointingly silent over Hong Kong, its special status and the rights of its people. That's in marked contrast to his criticism of Iran, where protests over gasoline prices have turned violent.

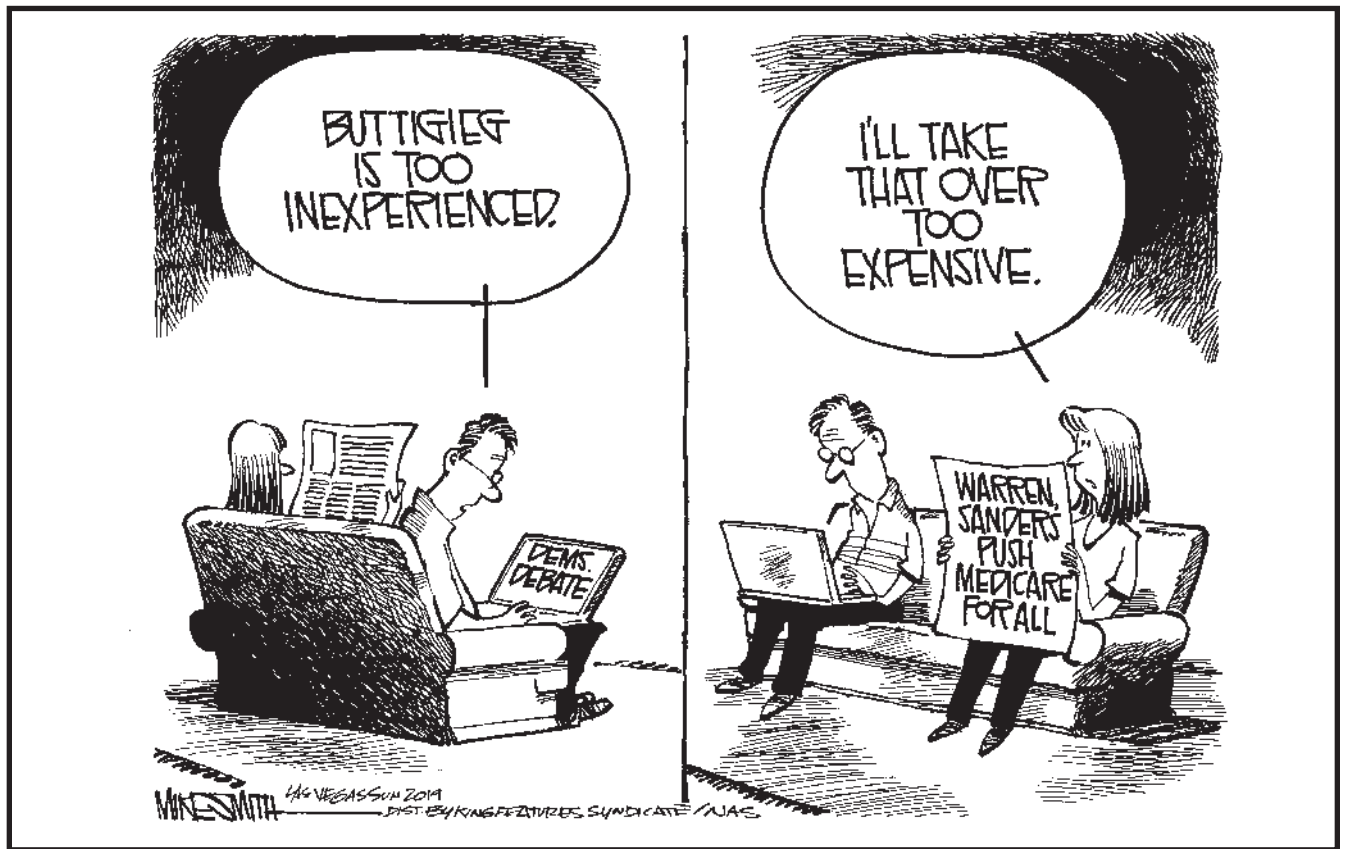
On Tuesday, the Senate on a bipartisan vote passed the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act, which would require the secretary of State to certify annually whether Hong Kong remains sufficiently autonomous from China to keep the special trade status intact. The House of Representatives followed suit on Wednesday, also on a bipartisan vote.

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A companion bill prohibits U.S. sales to Hong Kong of tear gas, pepper spray, rubber bullets, water cannons, stun guns and similar policing equipment.

The bill may complicate the ongoing trade negotiations between the U.S. and China, but Trump should embrace it anyway. The U.S. should offer its official support to Hong Kongers as they defend their liberties—and as they insist that Beijing keep its commitments on Hong Kong autonomy.

(C)2019 LOS ANGELES TIMES



## A test of future US-China relations

**HONG KONG**—Impeachment proceedings have overshadowed another riveting drama half a world away: ongoing pro-democracy protests in this iconic city.

Peaceful marches of millions of Hong Kong citizens have given way to violent student protests as Beijing continues to curb the city's freedoms. Meantime, an almost unanimous vote in Congress passed the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act this week to support the protesters, as Beijing fumes and a reluctant President Trump prepares to sign it.

How these protests end—whether in disaster or compromise—will resonate far beyond Hong Kong's 7.4 million people. Although Hong Kong is a part of China, it is becoming a worrying symbol of Beijing's attitude toward the rest of the world.

Talks with pro-democracy activists, including students at a besieged campus, left me with one overwhelming impression: This was a self-inflicted crisis by pro-Beijing leaders that never needed to happen.

And it has been unnecessarily inflamed by Chinese leader Xi Jinping's unwillingness to tolerate dissent.

When the British returned Hong Kong to China in 1997, Beijing guaranteed that the territory would enjoy a "high degree of autonomy for 50 years" under a mini-constitution known as the Basic Law. This included an independent judiciary, and increasingly free elections.

This "one country, two systems" framework operated tolerably well until Xi came to power in 2012. As China's limited political freedoms were repressed, autonomy gradually eroded in Hong Kong.

The current crisis began in February, when Hong Kong's chief executive Carrie Lam introduced an extradition bill that would allowed the territory's citizens to be sent for trial in China where courts are subject to Communist Party dictates. Nearly one-fourth of the city's population took to the streets in protest.

What enabled the crisis to explode and devolve into violence was Lam's unwillingness to hold a dialogue with protesters who want to preserve Hong Kong's rule of law.

She finally officially withdrew the extradition bill in September. But, as some angry students have indeed turned violent, largely in response to police brutality and thousands of arrests, she has refused the protesters' demands that police violence be investigated.

"Beijing wants to portray the whole thing as a color revolution (the name for popular revolts in Eastern Europe and elsewhere), all rioters and people pushing for independence," I was told by Hong Kong's former government chief secretary, Anson Chan. "But this is about reclaiming freedom and responsibilities we used to enjoy under the Basic Law and which Beijing has been steadily eroding. They are creating a whole generation who will harbor anger towards Beijing."

What makes Hong Kong's trauma an international problem is the attitudes Beijing has shown toward a different political system. Rather than fire Lam, or press her to find a compromise, Xi

**By TRUDY RUBIN**  
The Philadelphia Inquirer

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has backed her stonewalling. Beijing is now trying to overrule Hong Kong court decisions.

And Chinese leaders have blamed the protests on a supposed "black hand," meaning backing from the CIA. There is zero evidence of such backing. Indeed, at one point, Trump, in his eagerness for a trade deal, promised Xi that the U.S. would remain quiet on the protests.

China's steady erosion of "one country, two systems" has already had major repercussions outside Hong Kong. Beijing wants to impose the formula on nearby democratic Taiwan, the quasi-sovereign island with which the United States has close ties, and a loose defense pact.

Beijing considers Taiwan a renegade province, but Hong Kong's experience has made Taiwan more resistant to reunification. Again, another self-inflicted wound.

On the world stage, Beijing's allergy to democratic Hong Kong has broader repercussions. "Hong Kong is a bellwether for the international community as to China's commitments towards international treaties and what sort of country China will turn into," says Chan.

Contrary to Beijing's claim, Congress has a right to express its unhappiness over Hong Kong. It granted the territory special trade rights in a 1992 law, on the premise that Beijing would keep its international commitments to allow Hong Kong autonomy for 50 years. The new congressional legislation would eliminate that special trade status if Beijing shrinks Hong Kong's autonomy.

"Hong Kong's position as China's premier financial center depends on an independent judiciary and rule of law," says Chan. "But Beijing has an imperfect understanding of what makes Hong Kong tick. Some political liberalization is necessary to sustain the economic system."

It is this imperfect understanding, that makes Xi's behavior towards Hong Kong so unnerving, a self-inflicted wound that has turned a solvable problem into an international crisis. And an indicator of inability to tolerate criticism at home or abroad.

In mid-August, Trump tweeted that he had "zero doubt that if President Xi wants to quickly and humanely solve the Hong Kong problem, he can do it." Yet many in Hong Kong believe Xi wants the crisis to continue, and violence to grow, as a pretext for crushing autonomy.

That would be a much greater self-inflicted wound.



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Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Real answers for those who are really confused about Real ID driver's licenses

**U**p front, I'll confess that I still don't have a good answer to the question that is likely to come to dominate the national discussion as the Real ID deadline approaches next fall.

That question is why? As in ...

**Q. Why, as of Oct. 1, 2020, will the federal government require passengers to show a Real ID-certified driver's license, valid passport or other special form of identification to board a domestic air flight?**

**A.** To show that the Trump administration is extra serious about combating terrorism? That's my best guess as to the reason for this enhanced identification requirement. Congress formalized it in a 2005 law that was born of post-9/11 panic, but it's being implemented only because of a 2017 order from Trump's Department of Homeland Security.

All but one of the 9/11 hijackers would have been able to board their planes had Real ID requirements been in place, and afterward, this nation has seen zero air hijackings without Real ID requirements in place.

Since I last wrote about this topic three weeks ago I've not learned of a smart rejoinder to my peevish conclusion that Real ID is a solution in search of problem.

In fact, it's creating problems of its own—confusion, pique and long lines at driver's license facilities—as many readers reminded me in a flood of questions and complaints. And I do have some answers there.

**Q. What forms of identification will still work to get you on an airplane after Oct. 1, 2020, if you don't have a Real ID?**

**A.** A valid U.S. passport or passport card, a Department of Homeland Security Global Entry card, a military ID, a permanent resident or border-crossing card, a foreign passport, a Canadian driver's license and a variety of other documents listed at [tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/identification](https://tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/identification).

If you have one of these and remember to have it with you at

the airport or whenever you want to enter a federally secured facility, you can avoid the crowds and all the news coverage and wait until after the deadline to apply.

**Q. Since a passport is among the documents that can substitute for a Real ID, can you simply show your passport to be issued a Real ID?**

**A.** Of course not, silly! And a Real ID can't be used as a passport. This is the government we're talking about here. To get a Real ID you need to assemble a small cache of documents that includes proof of identity (such as a passport or birth certificate), proof of Social Security number (such as a Social Security card, tax form or pay stub), proof of current residency (such as utility bills or bank statements) and proof of signature (such as a driver's license or canceled check).

If you do most of your banking and bill paying online and don't have bills and stubs lying around, computer printouts are OK.

**Q. What sort of mistakes are typical?**

**A.** Presenting utility bills, bank statements or canceled checks that are more than 90 days old is one I heard about frequently. Even though the Real ID card will be good for four years, you can't get one by showing old bills.

A problem some people—mostly women—are encountering is that, because of marriage or divorce, their last names don't match the last names on their proof-of-identity documents. Such people have to bring with them certified proof of marriage or proof of dissolution of marriage papers that reconcile the discrepancy.

**Q. Do minors need to get Real ID cards?**

**A.** Only if they are traveling alone.

**Q. Does it cost extra?**

**A.** It's \$5 to replace a current drivers license early, but there's no extra charge if you upgrade to Real ID at your normal renewal time.

**By ERIC ZORN**

Chicago Tribune

*Eric Zorn is an op-ed columnist for the Chicago Tribune.*



**Q. Will Real ID be a de facto national identification card?**

**A.** No, says the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in its answers to frequently asked questions at [dhs.gov/real-id-public-faqs](https://dhs.gov/real-id-public-faqs). The program “does not create a federal database of driver license information,” says DHS. “Each jurisdiction continues to issue its own unique license, maintains its own records, and controls who gets access to those records and under what circumstances.”

**Q. How long does the process take once you show up at a driver's license facility?**

**A.** It depends on the facility and time of the week, according to many anecdotal reports. It took me 90 minutes, but I've heard everything from 30 minutes to four hours, so bring along reading material.

**Q. Must you make this, too, about Donald Trump?**

**A.** Yes. Because Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama had the good sense to ignore this ill-advised, unnecessary bit of security theater that's now robbing people of time they'll never get back and will almost certainly ruin untold thousands of vacations and business trips in the future. The current administration decided the requirements are “critically important.”

Congress passed Real ID 14 years ago, but next October, Trump will own it.

## We need the full truth about the CIA's torture program

**T**he new movie “The Report” is a powerful telling of the story of the Senate investigation into the horrors of the CIA's torture program and the fight to allow the public to see what the government had done in its name.

Yet to this day, the full 6,700-page report produced by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence detailing the CIA's post-Sept. 11 program of detention, torture and other abuse of detain-

ees remains secret after years of litigation.

The CIA called its methods “enhanced interrogation,” a euphemism for torture used to break minds and bodies to induce fear and despair. The techniques included waterboarding and other simulated drowning, physical violence, sleep deprivation from continuously blaring music, nudity and forced standing in painful positions for hours. None of this is legal, but the CIA sought to justify its cruelty by claiming it resulted in accurate information. Our country then engaged in a debased debate about the effectiveness of torture, which the executive summary of the report subsequently put to rest. It concluded the program did not yield any meaningful intelligence.

The Obama administration succeeded in preventing the full report from being made public, but at least the executive summary was released in 2014.

Because of that disclosure, two survivors of torture and the family of a third torture victim were able to sue two psychologists who collaborated with the CIA on the torture program, resulting in a settlement. The case set an important precedent, showing that the courts can handle lawsuits challenging intelligence community abuses committed in the name of national security. Still, the stories of most other victims and survivors of torture—mainly Muslim black and brown men who bore the brunt of these government abuses of power—remain largely untold.

The public needs to see the full report to know the extent of the harms done, as well as the details of the CIA's misrepresentations to Congress, the courts and the media about its abuses. The executive branch needs to have and read the report and learn its lessons, as Congress intended.

Full transparency is immensely important for public accountability and for torture victims and their families, who are still suffering. One man depicted in “The Report,” Gul Rahman, was tortured and killed in a CIA prison in Afghanistan in 2002. His family is suing the CIA, which is still refusing to reveal what it did with his body. Seventeen years after Gul Rahman was killed, his family yearns to give him a decent burial. As for other

**By HINA SHAMSI**

LOS Angeles Times

*Hina Shamsi is director of the ACLU's National Security Project and a steering committee member of Open the Government.*



survivors and their families? The U.S. government has never provided an apology or official recognition of the physical and mental harm people endured, let alone reparations or rehabilitation services.

Many U.S. government torture architects, perpetrators and proponents continue to shape policy and practice in the administration. Gina Haspel, who oversaw secret torture and detention sites, now heads the CIA. Marshall Billingslea, who advocated the use of torture in the Bush administration, is now assistant secretary for terrorist financing at the Treasury Department and a nominee for a crucial human rights position at the State Department.

And of course, there's Donald Trump, who made a campaign pledge to bring back torture. He has not succeeded in reviving those practices, but has granted pardons to military service members accused or convicted of war crimes.

Congress must ensure full disclosure of the Senate investigation report and hold the perpetrators accountable, instead of confirming them to leadership positions in the administration. Impunity for government officials who commit crimes means this country's oversight and justice systems will be further weakened and seen as inept.

The victims and survivors deserve recompense and rehabilitation for their shattered lives. How this story ends is a test for how we recover the moral and legal principles destroyed by the officials who created and supported the torture program.

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

## Thank you, Kilili!

We, at the Humane Society Legislative Fund, applaud Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) for his continued support and leadership on animal welfare issues. By introducing the Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act, H.R. 737, he has identified the need to stop the barbaric practice of shark-finning. This bill would make it illegal to possess, buy, or sell shark fins or any product containing shark fins. Rep. Sablan led the debate explaining how shark-finning dramatically impacts tourism and how the bill is zero cost to taxpayers. Through his valiant efforts, H.R. 737 historically passed the House floor last week with the support of over two-thirds of the House and is now headed to the Senate. Not only has the representative supported the protection of sharks but has also supported legislation that will end the inhumane slaughter of horses as well as make animal cruelty a federal crime. We applaud Rep. Sablan for his continued leadership on protecting animals and look forward to Congress passing more animal protection bills.






**Anna Marie Malloy**

Senior Legislative Specialist, Federal Affairs  
Humane Society Legislative Fund  
Washington, DC 20037

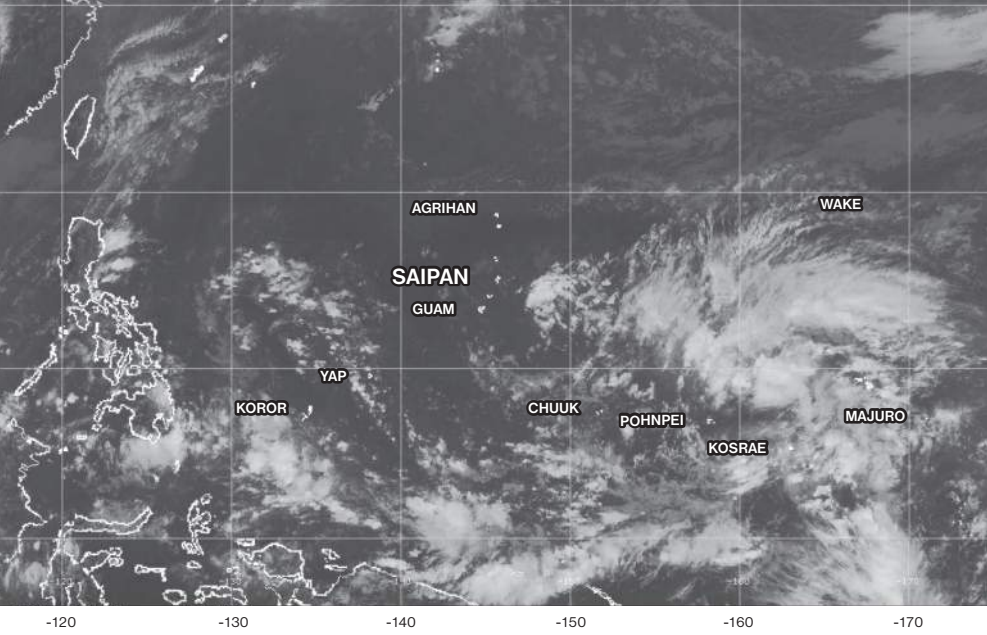


# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
									
Breezy. Partly sunny with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 20 to 25 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph increasing to 25 to 35 mph in the afternoon.		Windy. Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Windy. Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Breezy. Partly sunny with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	
87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°

### YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



### PICTURE TIME: 8:59 AM, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas waters. The VAD wind profile indicates east-northeast winds of 18 to 24 knots just off the surface which increase to between 24 and 30 knots through the lowest 10 thousand feet of the air. The buoys reveal combined seas of 9 to 11 feet, composed mainly of northeast trade-wind waves and northeast trade-wind swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 75°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 76°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Sunny	72° / 55°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	39° / 27°	
Hong Kong	Sunny	81° / 70°	
Honolulu	Windy	84° / 75°	
London	Showers	54° / 45°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	72° / 53°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	77° / 64°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	61° / 48°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	78° / 72°	
New York	Cloudy	59° / 36°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	59° / 50°	
Paris	Showers	54° / 48°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	57° / 46°	
Rome	Showers	61° / 54°	
Salem	Sunny	61° / 42°	
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	60° / 48°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	54° / 36°	
Tokyo	Rain	59° / 55°	
Washington, DC	Showers	60° / 39°	



### NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:30 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.17	
6:54 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.71	
12:31 PM	LOW TIDE	0.66	
6:10 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.96	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:23 AM	5:43 PM
Tuesday	6:23 AM	5:44 PM
Wednesday	6:24 AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:25 AM	5:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	4:41 AM	4:41 PM	-
Tuesday	5:41 AM	5:30 PM	-
Wednesday	6:40 AM	6:21 PM	-
Thursday	7:40 AM	7:14 PM	-
Friday	8:38 AM	8:09 PM	-

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 27, 2019

### DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily
UA105	6:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4

### SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20am	6:30am	Daily
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### SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:05am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:10am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:25am	3, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	4:35am	8:35am	Daily
OZ6243	3:20pm	7:10pm	2, 4, 6
OZ624	3:50pm	7:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

### SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7
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### SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

### SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6
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### SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7
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### SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:35am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:35am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	Daily via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

### SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
OZ6243/9661	3:20pm	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ624/9661	3:50pm	11:15pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

### ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA174	7:30am	8:10am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:30pm	2, 4

### BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3452	10:05pm	2:30am+1	3

### SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ6233	8:00am	1:20pm	2, 4, 6
OZ623	8:55am	2:30pm	1, 3, 5, 7
7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:30pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:05am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

### SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
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### HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7

### GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
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### BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
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### MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	12:40am	8:07am+1	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA192/174	10:40pm	8:07am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:07am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/6233	11:45pm	1:20pm+1	1, 3, 5 via ICN
OZ704/623	11:45pm	2:30pm+1	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

### HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/6233	12:30am	1:20pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ746/623	12:30am	2:30pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (*The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.*)

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

### SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

### ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

### ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

### GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

### SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily

1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

### TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily



# Business



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Triple J Enterprises Inc. formally opened Surfrider Resort Hotel in Chalan Kanoa last Friday afternoon.

## Surfrider Resort Hotel opens in CK

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

In 1964, Robert H. Jones was one of those who put up Royal Taga, Saipan's first hotel where Saipan World Resort now sits.

Last Friday, Jones led the ribbon-cutting of his company's Surfrider Resort Hotel, an island-themed hotel near the beach in Chalan Kanoa.

"We are very proud of it. We've got a lot of nice rooms," said Jones, who is chairman of Triple J Enterprises Inc.

The four-story Surfrider Resort Hotel has 53 rooms, including the governor's suite that is located on the second floor of the Surf Club Restaurant. It offers modern amenities such as high-speed internet and satellite TV.

Surfrider Resort Hotel used to be the Pacific Gardenia Hotel and Silver Resort. Surf Club Restaurant, which is located behind Surfrider Resort Hotel, is the former Sunset Bar & Grill.

In his brief speech, Jones turned emotional when he recalled that his wife, Margaret, who helped in the hotel's room decoration, could not witness the ribbon-cutting as

she passed away last summer.

Jones thanked many people who built and also those who supported the hotel project.

In an interview, Jones said they are looking forward to having a lot of tourists and local people enjoy their stay in the hotel.

Jones did not disclose how much the company spent for the construction of the hotel and only stated that no construction is cheap on Saipan today.

"It's well built and we're very proud of it," he reiterated.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios led Cabinet members and other government officials in attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

In his speech, Torres congratulated Jones and his family for their continued investment on the island.

In an interview, Torres said Jones and his family really bring good quality products to Saipan.

The governor cited Triple J's many businesses such as Tony Roma's, Capricciosa, Bubba Gump Shrimp Co., Surf Club Restaurant, Triple J Auto Motors, Saipan Comfort Homes, Sandy Beach Homes, and Triple J Payless Super-fresh and Truckload Store.

Jones said it took them three years to complete the hotel project due to the delay caused when human bones were found during the excavation at the site.

He said they have to respect the local culture and their heritage so the project was delayed a year to relocate and study the bones.

Jones said they will be re-burying the bones at the same site this December.

"It takes a while because we have to study the bones and take them off-island, and brought them back," he said.

The hotel consists of three divisions—staff building or main lobby building and the north and south buildings.

Maria Valentina Haberman, the marketing director for Triple J Saipan Inc., said the main lobby building and the south building cater more to the business-type tourists—the smaller jet-setting tourists and also the business-type tourists that come from outer islands to meet on Saipan.

Haberman said the rooms, which are equipped with modern amenities, are between 38 square feet and adjoining rooms up to 81 square feet.

The governor's suite has two bedrooms and a kitchen,

among other amenities. It has a huge living room that opens up to the ocean view.

"So that's our prized possession," Haberman said.

Haberman said they had a couple of construction phases for the hotel.

First, they started with the Surf Club Restaurant, then opened up the south portion of the building with 22 rooms.

Haberman said they just finished the lobby building, the middle phase, and now the north suites for another 30 rooms, for a total of 52 rooms.

Including the governor's suite, total rooms are 53.

"Today, we are now in full service. We take reservations on line. We got different rates, depending on the season," she said.

Haberman said they have two target markets—independent young travelers who are coming to Saipan to explore and also business tourists or the people who come in from Guam, their business partners or from outer islands or even the U.S. government or the federal government that come to help the island or work here for projects.

"We cater to them because all of our rooms have microwaves, small refrigerators that are for long-term stay," she said, adding they have amenities for them to be comfortable to stay even three to six months.

Haberman said they have a good relationship with the China market, through the Marianas Visitors Authority, and also the Korean market, which is a huge market.

Haberman said they had a couple of setbacks when Super Typhoon Soudelor struck in 2015 and Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018.

"We had to stop the focus here and take care of the construction team because our warehouses, our barracks... we had to stop and rebuild our infrastructure for the com-

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Triple J Enterprises Inc. chair Robert H. Jones joins other company bigwigs and guests during the ribbon-cutting of Surfrider Resort Hotel in Chalan Kanoa last Friday afternoon.



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Triple J Enterprises Inc. chair Robert H. Jones poses with 2019 Miss Marianas Shannon Tudela Sasamoto.



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The staff of the newly opened Surfrider Resort Hotel in Chalan Kanoa

pany. That's why we had to extend," she said.

Haberman said once they were settled, everyone of their employees were taken cared of, then they resumed the construction of the hotel.

Haberman said it's a very big investment, however, Mr. and Mrs. Jones love Chalan Kanoa as it holds a very special place in their heart.

Haberman said the son of Robert Jones, Jeff, who is now Triple J Enterprises chief operating officer and president, grew up in the area.

Haberman said their matriarch, Margaret Jones, who just passed away last summer, actually helped them in the hotel project.

"I worked with her personally to decorate to make sure that certain pieces in the bathroom, vanities, the artwork would be set up," Haberman said.

She said the south side of the hotel has been opened for two years now, mostly for their business partners from Guam

and from the U.S. government.

Triple J Saipan Inc. construction operations manager senior superintendent Mario F. Valentino said the hotel project was very challenging because of the CW-1 process that they had to undergo to get manpower, plus the two super typhoons.

Filipino CW-1 workers of Triple J Construction built the hotel.

Valentino said during the excavation phase, they unearthed artifacts and 52 human remains, causing a delay for over a year.

He said the skeletal remains had to be exhumed so they had archeologists flown from outside.

Valentino said for Triple J it is very important to respect the community.

He said as the site is the resting place the remains have to be buried in a tomb back into the same ground.

Valentino said a swimming pool is among the future plans for the hotel.



# Nation

## Bloomberg vows to refuse donations, presidential salary

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Michael Bloomberg will not accept political donations if he runs for president and he will not take a salary if he wins, according to senior aides who offered new details on Saturday about the New York billionaire's plans to navigate his wealth as he marches toward a formal 2020 announcement.

"He has never taken a political contribution in his life. He is not about to start," Bloomberg chief adviser Howard Wolfson said in an interview. "He cannot be bought."

One of the richest men in the world, Bloomberg is sending every indication he has decided to enter the crowded Democratic presidential primary election. In recent days, he has created a presidential campaign committee with the Federal Election Commission and qualified for the primary ballot in at least three states. Bloomberg's team has reserved more than \$30 million in television ads set to begin running Sunday in several primary states.

The moves, just 10 weeks before primary voting begins in Iowa, reflects his concern that the current Democratic field is not well-positioned to defeat President Donald Trump next fall.

Bloomberg's wealth has already emerged as a central issue as the political world



awaits his formal announcement. He is estimated to be one of the 10 richest people in the world.

His Democratic rivals pounced on news of Bloomberg's massive television ad buy, in addition to his decision to bypass the first four states on the presidential primary calendar—Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina—in favor of focusing on the many states that hold pri-

mary contests in March.

"I'm disgusted by the idea that Michael Bloomberg or any billionaire thinks they can circumvent the political process and spend tens of millions of dollars to buy elections," Democratic presidential contender Bernie Sanders, a Vermont senator, wrote Friday on Twitter. "If you can't build grassroots support for your candidacy, you have no business running for president."

Another Democratic candidate, Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, swiped at Bloomberg as she campaigned over the weekend in New Hampshire.

"He didn't want to deal with all of this grassroots campaigning from the beginning, you know that's on him. I think this is important," Klobuchar said. She added, "I think that you want to have a candidate for president who's willing to go out, day after day, and talk

**AP**  
Former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg poses for his candidate photo as he files paperwork, Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2019, at the state Capitol in Little Rock, Ark., to appear on the ballot in Arkansas' March 3 presidential primary.

to regular people like this."

Bloomberg's team insists that his wealth allows him to be more responsive to the concerns of everyday people because he isn't beholden to special interests. Wolfson said Bloomberg would work for only \$1 a year as president, just as he did when he was New York City mayor for more than a decade.

Bloomberg's message on money is much the same one employed by Trump in his 2016 campaign, although Trump ultimately accepted millions of dollars in donations. Trump donates his sal-

ary each quarter to different departments of the federal government.

Bloomberg "is wholly independent of special interests, will not take a dime in any contribution, and never has in any of his three races," Wolfson said.

The decision to refuse contributions would make it impossible for Bloomberg to participate any sanctioned Democratic debates should he run. The rules of entry, as set by the Democratic National Committee, currently require participants to meet a polling threshold and raise donations from tens of thousands of voters.

Any money Bloomberg raises and spends on his presidential ambitions will come from one place: His own pocket.

How much is he willing to spend?

"Whatever it takes to defeat Donald Trump," Wolfson said.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Iowa woman gets 50 years in prison for 1992 beating death

**MUSCATINE, Iowa** (AP)—An Iowa grandmother convicted of the 1992 killing of her former boyfriend has been sentenced to 50 years in prison, which was the maximum allowed. The Muscatine Journal reports that 56-year-old Annette Cahill showed no emotion when she was sentenced Friday. Following a mistrial earlier this year, Cahill was convicted in September of second-degree murder in the baseball bat beating death of 22-year-old bartender Corey Wieneke. Her attorney says she plans to appeal. Police have said Cahill had been in an intimate relationship with Wieneke and that they had a heated argument about his involvement with another woman. Wieneke was found dead on the floor of his bedroom in rural West Liberty in October 1992. The case against Cahill relied on testimony from a woman who said she was 9 years old when she overheard Cahill confess to killing Wieneke.

#### Authorities: Amtrak train hits vehicle in Florida, 3 dead

**JUPITER, Fla.** (AP)—Authorities say three people in Florida were killed in a vehicle that collided with an Amtrak passenger train, but no passengers aboard the train were hurt. Palm Beach County Fire Rescue told

news outlets the crash happened about 2 p.m. Saturday in Indiantown, which is north of West Palm Beach. Amtrak spokeswoman Christina Leeds said in an email that the train was traveling from Miami to New York. She added that none of the 200 train passengers was injured. Authorities say a vehicle was heavily damaged and the occupants were killed. The cause of the crash was not immediately available. Leeds says local officials are investigating.

#### Wild cows returned home after hurricane

**CAPE LOOKOUT, N.C.** (AP)—A trio of castaway wild cows have returned home after being found on North Carolina's Outer Banks, where they apparently washed up after swimming for miles to escape Hurricane Dorian's storm surge. The Raleigh News & Observer reports that the cows were returned to their native stomping grounds on Friday after a two-day operation. Officials think the stranded cows swam up to 5 miles (8 kilometers) during the September storm before being found near Cape Lookout this month. The cows belong to a herd that roams freely on Cedar Island, across the sound. When Dorian generated an 8-foot (2-meter) "mini tsunami," it washed them and dozens of other animals away, including 28 wild horses that died.

## Trump hears opposing viewpoints in debate over youth vaping

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—President Donald Trump on Friday heard opposing viewpoints in the debate over youth vaping but offered no insight into where he would ultimately come down on the issue after promising two months ago that he would ban most flavored e-cigarettes but later backtracking.

He said the administration would announce its plan "very soon."

"We want to take care of our kids, got to take care of our kids," Trump told reporters after listening to more than an hour of at times robust debate among representatives from the vaping industry, the nation's major health associations, parent advocates and business groups.

Trump backed off the proposal he announced in September after advisers told him a ban would not serve his political interests.

In Friday's meeting, he asked most of those seated around the table in the Cabinet Room to spell out their solution.

Health groups told him they

support the near-total ban on e-cigarette flavors that he promised in September.

"Our stance is very aligned with what you suggested on Sept. 11," said Gary M. Reedy, chief executive officer of the American Cancer Society, a position shared by the American Lung Association, said its president and CEO, Harold Wimmer.

Others pressed for banning all flavors, including mint and menthol, arguing that teens will gravitate to those flavors if they remain on the market.

Other participants argued for raising the age limit for legal purchases of electronic cigarettes from 18 to 21. Trump said earlier this month that the administration will pursue such an increase. He said Friday that age would be discussed at the meeting, calling it a "big factor."

Federal law bans sales of e-cigarettes to those under 18, but some states have pushed that to 21—the same as with traditional cigarettes.

Industry representatives argued against banning sweet,

fruity and other flavors that have proven attractive to teens, arguing that bans don't work.

Trump seemed sympathetic to that argument as he compared a flavor ban to prohibition and suggested that such a move could lead to the creation of a black market for flavored e-cigarettes.

"If you don't give it to them, it's going to come here illegally," Trump said.

Greg Conley, president of the American Vaping Association, told Trump that former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, "who is no friend to your presidency," is funding a \$160 million campaign to try to ban these flavors. Conley said thousands of small business and mom-and-pop vape shops would go out of business if they are limited to just selling tobacco- and menthol-flavored e-cigarettes, and that thousands of jobs would disappear from an economy Trump describes as booming. Bloomberg is considering entering the Democratic presidential race.

Conley and others called instead for increasing the age

limit to 21, limiting bulk sales of e-cigarettes and restricting their marketing.

Juul Labs, the nation's largest e-cigarette maker, stopped selling fruit and dessert flavors, like mango and cucumber, in stores last year. The company ended online sales of those flavors in October. Earlier this month, Juul dropped popular mint sales, leaving it to sell only menthol and tobacco flavors.

Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, said during the meeting that kids are becoming addicted to nicotine because of the flavors. E-cigarettes typically heat a solution that contains nicotine, which makes cigarettes and e-cigarettes addictive.

"It's a health emergency," said Romney, the co-sponsor of a bill with Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., that would ban flavored e-cigarettes and subject them to cigarette taxes, among other measures designed to curb teen vaping.

"I salute the fact that Juul has said we're taking these products off the market because we care about our kids," Romney said.



# Asia

## Self-confessed Chinese spy spills secrets in Australia

**PERTH, Australia (AP)**—A self-confessed Chinese spy has given Australia's counterespionage agency inside intelligence on how Beijing conducts its interference operations abroad and revealed the identities of China's senior military intelligence officers in Hong Kong, media reported.

Australian Treasurer Josh Frydenberg told reporters Saturday that the detailed accusations of China infiltrating and disrupting democratic systems in Australia, Hong Kong and Taiwan are "very disturbing."

The Nine network newspapers reported that Chinese defector Wang "William" Liqiang told ASIO—the country's counterespionage agency—that he was involved in the kidnapping in 2015 of one

of five Hong Kong booksellers suspected of selling dissident materials. The incident has been a reference point for protesters during the ongoing unrest in Hong Kong.

He would be the first Chinese intelligence operative to blow his cover.

"I have personally been involved and participated in a series of espionage activities," Wang reportedly said in a sworn statement to ASIO in October.

He revealed that he was part of a Hong Kong-based investment firm that was a front for the Chinese government to conduct political and economic espionage in Hong Kong, including infiltrating universities and directing harassment and cyberattacks

against dissidents.

Using a South Korean passport, Wang said he meddled in Taiwan's 2018 municipal elections and claimed there were plans to disrupt the democratic self-ruled island's presidential election in January.

He said he helped funnel around 20 million yuan (\$2.8 million) of campaign donations to Han Kuo-yu, mayor of the Taiwanese port city of Kaohsiung and a presidential candidate who has vowed to make peace with China.

Han vehemently denied the allegations in a statement re-

leased by his campaign.

"Forget about 20 million yuan," Han said. "I would resign as Kaohsiung mayor if I had taken even 1 yuan from the Communist Party."

Communist Party-ruled China claims Taiwan as its territory to be reunited by force if necessary.

Wang said he faced detention and possible execution if he returned to China.

He said he currently was living in Sydney with his wife and infant son on a tourist visa and had requested political asylum.

Australia's Home Affairs Department told The Associated Press that it does not comment on individual cases.

"The purpose of protection visas is to safeguard people who cannot return to their home country due to a well-founded fear of persecution or risk of harm," a spokesperson said. "Each case is assessed on its merits."

In Beijing, China's Foreign Ministry did not respond Saturday to a faxed request for comment on Wang.

In Hong Kong, calls to the China Innovation Investment

Limited office went unanswered Saturday. The company was identified by Wang as a front for Chinese intelligence operations in the city.

According to its website, CIIL is an investment holding company incorporated in the Cayman Islands in February 2002 and listed on Hong Kong's stock exchange in August the same year. It has investments in several companies in Hong Kong and China that are involved in energy storage products, lightning products, energy saving and media terminals.

### IS-linked PH militant behind suicide attacks killed

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—Philippine troops have killed a "high-value" but little-known Filipino militant who acted as a key link of the Islamic State group to local jihadists and helped set up a series of deadly suicide attacks in the south that have alarmed the region, military officials said Saturday.

Talha Jumsah, who used the nom de guerre Abu Talha, was killed Friday morning in a clash with troops in the jungles off Patikul town in Sulu province, which has been rocked by three deadly suicide bombings this year, including the first suicide attack known to have been staged by a Filipino militant.

"One by one, we will hunt you down," Maj. Gen. Corleto Vinluan Jr., the commander of military forces in Sulu, said in a warning to the militants. "I am reiterating my appeal to them to surrender and live a normal life instead of being hunted down as fleeing criminals."

Jumsah's body was found by troops Saturday nearly a kilometer (about half a mile) from where troops clashed with his group near the mountain village of Tanum in Patikul, provincial military spokesman Lt. Col. Gerald Monfort said.

U.S. and Australian anti-terrorism units have been helping monitor Jumsah, who had laid low but played a key role in plotting attacks, training militants and arranging the entry of Middle Eastern and Southeast Asian militants to the southern Philippines, military officials said.

Military units had specifi-

cally targeted Jumsah along with Abu Sayyaf commander Hajan Sawadjaan for their roles in recent and planned suicide attacks.

A member of the brutal Abu Sayyaf militant group in Sulu, Jumsah was one of a handful of Arabic speaking local militants who developed strong contacts with the Islamic State group, helping the Middle East-based militant network to establish a presence in the southern Philippines after major battle defeats in Syria and Iraq.

Jumsah served as a bomb-making instructor and arranged the transfer of foreign funds and movement of foreign militants for the suicide attacks. He also acted as an Arabic translator for militant ceremonies joined in by foreign militants shortly before they set out to die in suicide bombings, a military combat officer told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of a lack of authority to speak publicly.

Jumsah and Sawadjaan, who remains at large, have been blamed for plotting the Jan. 27 suicide bombing by a suspected Indonesian militant couple at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral in Sulu's main island of Jolo that killed 23 people, including the bombers, and wounded scores of other churchgoers and soldiers.

The Jolo cathedral attack renewed terrorism fears across the Philippines and Southeast Asia. President Rodrigo Duterte ordered troops to destroy the Abu Sayyaf following the bombing, leading to a renewed military offensive in the south.



Workers walk past a building listed as the address of China Innovation Investment Limited in Hong Kong, Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019. AP

## N. Korea says it's gained nothing from US but 'betrayal'

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)**—North Korea's U.N. Mission said Friday the country has gained "nothing but a sense of betrayal" since its leader Kim Jong Un and U.S. President Donald Trump committed to establishing a new relationship.

The mission said in a summary of its assessment of North Korea-U.S. relations obtained by The Associated Press that "indignation of our people has culminated" and "the currently imbalanced situation can no longer be allowed."

Since the U.S. has failed to take reciprocal measures to North Korea's suspension of "a number of actions" which the Trump administration is concerned about, the mission said there is no reason for further restraint.

"We have no leeway any longer," the North Korean mission said.

"It is quite natural for us to bolster our capabilities in order to undercut visibly growing threats obstructing our security and development," the mission said. "Nobody has the right to find fault with or to interfere with it."

U.S.-led diplomacy aimed at ridding North Korea of its nuclear weapons has largely been deadlocked since the February collapse of a summit between Trump and Kim Jong Un in Hanoi. The North Korean leader has demanded the U.S. come up with new, acceptable measures to salvage the nuclear talks by year's end and Pyongyang has been stepping up its pressures on Washington to make bigger concessions.

U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper said Thursday he does not regret postponing a U.S.-South Korean military exercise, even though the ges-

ture was rejected by North Korea as not enough to restart nuclear diplomacy.

The U.S. and South Korea announced Sunday they indefinitely postponed the annual Vigilant Ace aerial training as part of efforts to revive the nuclear talks. North Korea has called all military exercises a rehearsal for an invasion and senior North Korean official Kim Yong Chol said Tuesday the U.S. must scrap that military drill completely and abandon its hostility against his country if it wants to see the resumption of the nuclear negotiations.

North Korea wants the U.S. to lift major international sanctions on it and provide security assurances before it fully abandons its nuclear arsenal. But the U.S. has maintained sanctions would stay in place until North Korea takes serious steps toward denucle-

arization, a position supported by Britain and France who are also veto-wielding members of the U.N. Security Council.

North Korea has suspended nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile tests and returned the remains of American soldiers killed during the 1950-53 Korean war. The mission said Trump is "touted as a hero" for the repatriation of the remains "however, we have nothing in return."

"At the moment, the U.S. is obsessed with playing for time to follow through its domestic political calendar by abusing our patience and magnanimity," the mission said. "As time goes by, the U.S. is becoming increasingly hell bent on sanctions aimed at interrupting our right to development as well as military threats to our security in pursuit of its hostile policy" against North Korea.



# World

## Bolivian lawmakers approve new elections, bar ex-president

**LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP)**—Bolivian lawmakers on Saturday unanimously approved a measure calling for new presidential elections that would exclude former leader Evo Morales—a key step toward pacifying a nation rocked by unrest since an Oct. 20 marred by reported irregularities.

The bill was first approved by the Senate and then later in the day by the lower house, both of which are dominated by Morales' Movement Toward Socialism party. Interim President Jeanine Áñez tweeted that she would promulgate the bill into law Sunday morning.

"I want to thank our parliamentarians for having understood and heard the demands of the Bolivian people," Áñez wrote.

The Supreme Electoral Tribunal will set the date for the new elections. Bolivia's lawmakers must still select new members to the tribunal.

The measure forbids reelection of anyone who has served the last two terms consecutively as president, effectively ruling out Morales, whose refusal to accept such term lim-



Senators approve a bill on holding new elections in La Paz, Bolivia, Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019.

its was a key issue in protests against him.

Morales' claim of victory and a fourth term in the elec-

tion prompted massive protests that led him to resign on Nov. 10 at the army's suggestion. An audit by a team from

the Organization of American States found widespread irregularities in that election.

After Morales left for asylum in Mexico, his own supporters took to the streets in protest.

Officials say at least 32 people have died in demonstrations since the presidential election, which would be an-

nulled by Saturday's vote.

An agreement late Friday on elections between Morales' party and the interim government helped pacify the country. Street blockades were lifted, allowing supplies to reach marketplaces Saturday in areas that had been short of groceries and gas.

Sen. Oscar Ortiz said the

bill calls for updating the electoral rolls, naming a completely new electoral tribunal to oversee the vote.

"We have to generate confidence in the population," said Sen. Omar Aguilar, from Morales' party.

Also Saturday, Áñez rejected a bill presented by Morales' party that would have prevented the ousted president from being tried for alleged crimes committed during the exercise of his functions to date.

"With respect to approving this bill in favor of those who have committed crimes and who now seek impunity, my decision is clear and firm: I will not promulgate this law," Áñez said.

The bill remains paralyzed, lawmakers said.

On Friday, the interim government accused Morales of terrorism and sedition for purportedly organizing highway blockades intended to prevent food from reaching some cities.

Acting Interior Minister Arturo Murillo said the complaint relates to a video in which Morales is supposedly heard in a phone call coordinating the blockades from Mexico. Murillo said Bolivia's government is seeking a maximum penalty, which is between 15 and 20 years in prison.

Morales has said the video is a "montage" by his opponents.

## Pence works to reassure Kurdish allies in surprise Iraq trip

**IRBIL, Iraq (AP)**—Vice President Mike Pence worked to reassure the United States' Kurdish allies in an unannounced trip to Iraq on Saturday, the highest-level American trip since President Donald Trump ordered a pullback of U.S. forces in Syria two months ago.

Flying in a C-17 military cargo aircraft, Pence landed in Irbil, capital of Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdish region, to meet with Iraqi Kurdistan President Nechirvan Barzani.

The visit was meant to hearten the United States' regional partners in the fight against the Islamic State group after the U.S. pulled troops from northern Syria, leaving America's Kurdish allies there to face a bloody cross-border Turkish assault last month.

Asked by reporters if the United States was facing a sense of betrayal from Iraqi and Syrian Kurdish allies over Trump's actions in Syria, Pence said both groups, including Syrian Kurdish forces "who fought alongside us," had no doubts about the U.S. commitment to them. "It's unchanging," Pence said.

Earlier, Pence received a classified briefing at Iraq's Al-Asad Air Base, from which U.S. forces are believed to have launched the operation in

Syria last month that resulted in the death of Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. Pence also spoke by phone with Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi.

Underscoring Pence's message that American military partnership with Syrian Kurdish forces is ongoing, the U.S.-led coalition said Saturday that its forces, along with hundreds of Syrian Kurdish commandos, had jointly carried out the largest operation against the Islamic State in eastern Syria since the U.S. pullback began in early October.

Friday's operation in southeastern Syria's Deir el-Zour province captured dozens of Islamic State militants, cleared enemy compounds and seized weapons and explosives, the U.S.-led coalition said. Operations against Islamic State militants in Syria had been disrupted, but not totally halted, because of the U.S. troop pullback and Turkey's invasion.

Pence's trip Saturday was his second to the region in five weeks. Trump deployed him on a whirlwind journey to Ankara, Turkey, last month to negotiate a cease-fire after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan seized on the U.S. withdrawal to launch the offensive on U.S.-allied Kurdish fighters in northern Syria. Trump's move

had sparked some of the most unified criticism of his administration to date, as lawmakers in both parties accused Trump of forsaking longtime Kurdish allies and inviting Russia and Iran to hold even greater sway in the volatile region.

When the U.S. forces withdrew, Syria's Kurds—seeking protection from their No. 1 enemy, Turkey—invited Syrian government and Russian forces into parts of northeastern Syria where they had not set foot in years. More are now deploying along large parts of the border region under a Russian-Turkish deal, including to at least one former U.S. garrison in northern Syria.

The Ankara agreement required Syrian Kurds to vacate a swath of territory in Syria along the Turkish border in an arrangement that largely solidified Turkey's position and aims.

Pence hailed the cease-fire as the way to end the bloodshed caused by Turkey's invasion.

But Syrian-led Kurdish forces say the cease-fire is persistently violated. Fighting raged Saturday between them and Turkey-backed forces outside the Syrian town of Ein Issa, once home to U.S. bases and the Kurdish administration.

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Iraqi officials: 2 protesters dead amid ongoing clashes

**BAGHDAD (AP)**—Iraqi security forces fired rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse crowds of protesters Saturday, killing two people in a third day of fierce clashes in central Baghdad, security and hospital officials said. Two protesters were struck with rubber bullets and died instantly and over 20 others were wounded in the fighting on Rasheed Street, a famous avenue known for its old crumbling architecture and now littered with rubble from days of violence. Sixteen people have died and over 100 wounded in the renewed clashes. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations. At least 342 protesters have died in Iraq's massive protests, which started on Oct. 1 when thousands of Iraqis took to the streets to decry corruption and lack of services despite Iraq's oil wealth. Separately, Iraq's Parliament failed to hold a session Saturday due to lack of a quorum. Lawmakers were supposed to read reform bills introduced to placate protesters. The next session was postponed to Monday.

#### Ethiopia's Sidama people vote to create regional state

**ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP)**—Ethiopian authorities say the Sidama people in the south have voted overwhelmingly in favor of regional statehood. The vote could inspire others and cause further fragmentation of ethnic groups in Africa's second most populous country while its Nobel Peace Prize-winning leader urges

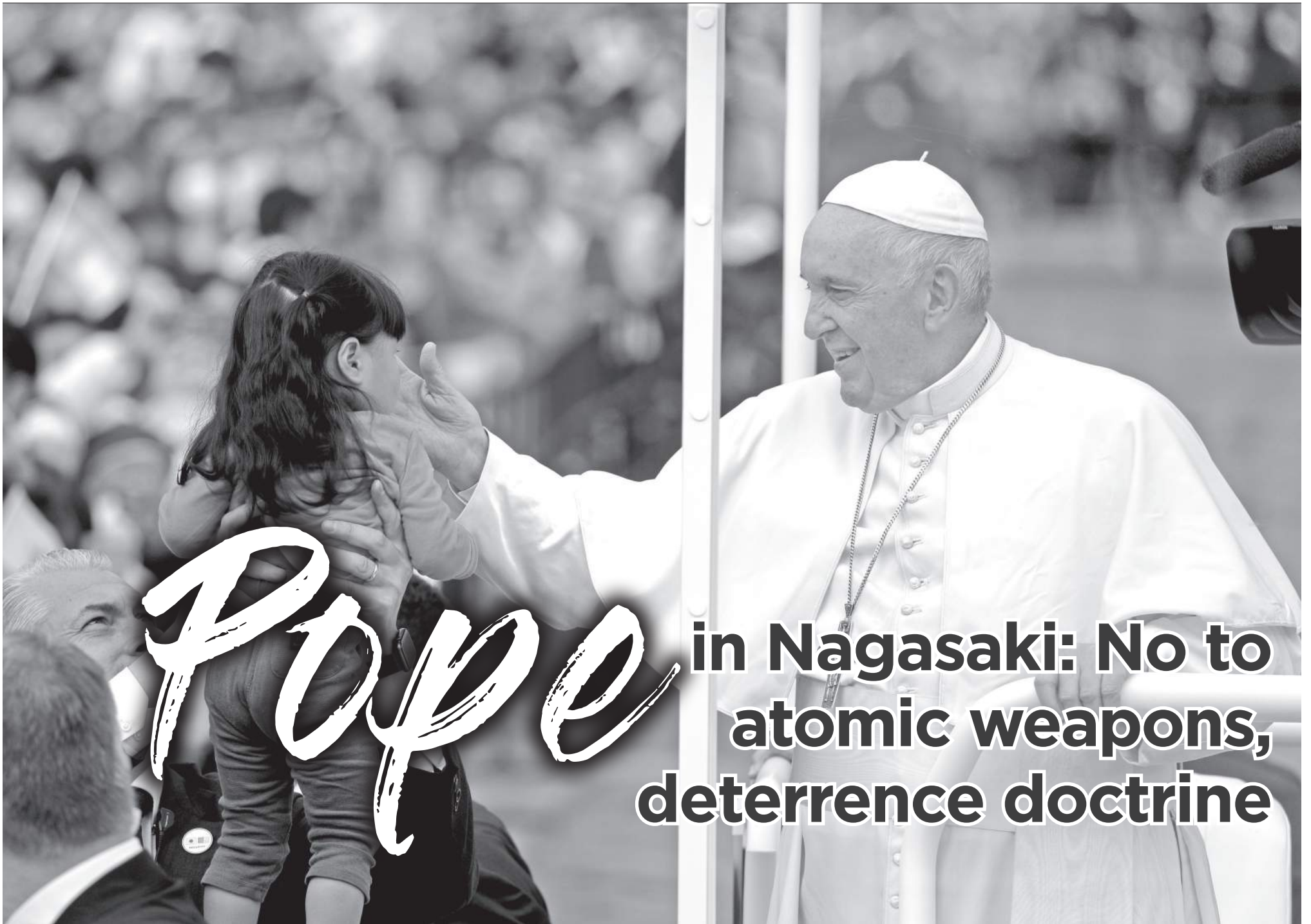
national unity. The National Election Board on Saturday said 98.5% of people voted for regional statehood while just 1.48% voted to remain within the Southern regional state. Official results show voter turnout was 99.8%. The Sidama make up about 4% of Ethiopia's population. A consortium of civil society organizations described Wednesday's referendum as peaceful, but it alleged some polling stations weren't transparent. Some voters told The Associated Press those in the "remain" camp were intimidated. They spoke on condition of anonymity out of fear for their safety.

#### Mudslides, floods kill 34 people in western Kenya

**NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)**—Kenya's interior minister says 29 people have been killed in mudslides, among the 34 people overall who lost their lives Saturday amid flooding in the East Africa nation. Heavy rains unleashed overnight floods in western Kenya. Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiangi said 17 people died in a mudslide in the village of Takmal in the Pokot Central district, while 12 others lost their lives in mudslides in the villages of Parua and Tapach in Pokot South. Five other people died when their car was swept away on the road between Kitale and Lodwar after two rivers overflowed their banks, said West Pokot County Commissioner Apollo Okello. West Pokot County Commissioner Apollo Okello said five other people died when their car was swept away on the road between Kitale and Lodwar after two rivers overflowed their banks.



# Focus



Pope Francis caresses a child as he arrives for a Mass at a baseball stadium Sunday, Nov. 24, 2019, in Nagasaki, Japan.

AP

By **NICOLE WINFIELD** and  
**HARUKA NUGA**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**NAGASAKI, Japan (AP)**—Pope Francis demanded world leaders renounce atomic weapons and the Cold War-era doctrine of deterrence, saying Sunday the stockpiling of nuclear arms decreases security, wastes resources and threatens humanity with catastrophic destruction.

Francis made the appeal in Nagasaki at ground zero of the second of the two 1945 U.S. atomic bombings on Japan. After laying a wreath of flowers and praying in the rain at the foot of the memorial to the victims, Francis said the place stands as a stark reminder “of the pain and horror that we human beings are capable of inflicting upon one another.”

“Convinced as I am that a world without nuclear weapons is possible and necessary, I ask political leaders not to forget that these weapons cannot protect us from current threats to national and international security,” he said.

The mood was somber and silent, darkened by the down-

pour that drenched the terraced fields and rice paddies of Nagasaki and the hundreds of Japanese who came out in plastic raincoats to witness the second pope to pay his respects to victims of the bomb.

Francis visited Nagasaki—and later Hiroshima—at the start of his three-day trip to Japan aimed at emphasizing his call for a global ban on atomic weapons.

The Holy See was among the first countries to sign and ratify the new U.N. nuclear prohibition treaty, and Francis himself has gone further than any pope before him in saying not only the use, but the mere possession of atomic weapons is “to be condemned.”

While Francis didn’t repeat his 2017 condemnation of the possession of nuclear weapons, he made a similar point. “One of the deepest longings of the human heart is for security, peace and stability,” he said. “The possession of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction is not the answer to this desire; indeed they seem always to thwart it.”

“Peace and international

stability are incompatible with attempts to build upon the fear of mutual destruction or the threat of total annihilation,” he said. “They can be achieved only on the basis of a global ethic of solidarity and cooperation.”

The first U.S. atomic bomb fell on Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945, killing 140,000 people. The second one dropped three days later on Nagasaki and killed another 74,000 by the end of the same year, according to data from the two cities. Many of the survivors have suffered the lasting impact of radiation and developed various forms of cancer.

Under the 1957 government law designed to support A-bomb survivors, or “hibakusha,” more than 370,000 people were recognized as eligible for various types of government support, including medical and welfare assistance, depending on how far they were from ground zero.

“In a world where millions of children and families live in inhumane conditions, the money that is squandered and the fortunes made through the manufacture, upgrading,

maintenance and sale of ever more destructive weapons, are an affront crying out to heaven,” Francis said.

He lamented the “climate of distrust” that is eating away at non-proliferation efforts and the arms control framework, a reference perhaps to the demise this year of the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces treaty, a landmark Cold War-era arms control agreement. The U.S. formally withdrew from the treaty in August, after accusing Moscow of developing a Russian missile system prohibited under it.

Gerald Powers, director of the Catholic Peacebuilding Network at the University of Notre Dame’s Kroc Institute, said Francis’ 2017 condemnation during a Vatican disarmament conference marked a shift in the church’s position and “created quite a stir” as a result, hailed by liberals and criticized by conservatives.

Powers noted that starting 1982, St. John Paul II had held that nuclear deterrence could be morally acceptable in the interim “so long as it is used as a step toward mutual, veri-

fiable nuclear disarmament.” The Holy See has noted in recent decade that the deterrence doctrine had become a permanent condition, while also seeing the dismantling of key arms control treaties.

“My view is that the pope didn’t condemn deterrence in principle but made a prudent moral judgment based on his reading of the nuclear signs of the times that the existing nuclear deterrents deserve condemnation because they are not a step toward disarmament,” he said.

The controversy over his 2017 remarks, however, might have instructed a slightly more nuanced message Sunday.

Japanese who came out to see Francis were grateful, regardless.

“I think he is a person who can deliver the message of peace without inhibition,” said Negoro Fumiyo, a 62-year-old Christian from Osaka.

Francis’ visit to Nagasaki also gave him the chance to honor Christian missionaries and martyrs centuries after St. Francis Xavier first brought Christianity to the archipelago in 1549.

He laid a second wreath of flowers at the memorial of 26 Nagasaki Martyrs, who were crucified in 1597 at the start of the two-century wave of anti-Christian persecution by Japanese rulers.

The example of the missionaries and martyrs, and the Hidden Christians who kept their faith alive underground for generations, helped inspire a young priest named Jorge Mario Bergoglio to be a missionary in Japan.

“May we never forget their heroic sacrifice!” Francis said in remarks at the memorial.

Shingo Fukaura, from the Goto Islands off Nagasaki, where the Hidden Christians survived during the time of persecution, traveled to Nagasaki bearing gifts he hoped to give the pope at Mass.

“I also brought this branch of the camelia tree, which has been on my island since the time when we, Christians, were hiding our faith,” he said. “I am hoping he could give his blessing to this tree ... and I could take it back to the islands to make it a symbol of peace.”



# Health & Wellness

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The American College of Lifestyle Medicine had its annual conference late last month, where a growing number of physicians, nurses and other health care professionals discussed lifestyle medicine, including diet and exercise, and how to most effectively prevent and treat chronic illnesses.

## Health care professionals consider lifestyle medicine to address various chronic illnesses

By **AUSTEN ERBLAT**  
SUN SENTINEL

As more options become available to pursue a healthy lifestyle, from dietary choices to exercise plans to preventative medicine and other advances, one organization—and one South Florida doctor in particular—is leading a movement toward “lifestyle medicine.”

The American College of Life-

style Medicine hosted its annual conference in Orlando recently where health care professionals from around the world convened to discuss recent advances in lifestyle medicine and how to most effectively treat common diagnoses. The ACLM is a working group of physicians, nurses, dietitians and other health care professionals. And interest appears to be growing.

“It’s been quite remarkable that in the last five years, ACLM membership has grown more than 500 per-

cent,” said Susan Benigas, the organization’s executive director.

“In the face of epidemic levels of physician and clinician burnout, it’s really lifestyle medicine that reignites the passion for why so many went into medicine to begin with, and that’s to become true healers.”

Benigas says that lifestyle medicine takes an approach that aims to prevent disease or at least treat and reverse disease, instead of simply managing the symptoms or reducing pain.

“There’s so much emphasis in our

health care system today on disease management—on diagnosing symptoms and treating those symptoms, really managing those diseases, with ever-increasing quantities of pills and procedures,” Benigas said.

“What’s so unique about evidence-based lifestyle medicine is that the focus is on treating the root cause of disease to identify and eradicate the root cause of disease so the focus is not solely on disease management, but on health restoration.”

In addition to the lifestyle changes themselves for patients, the ACLM is trying to transform the way health care providers meet and treat patients, including group appointments and remote appointments when the patients’ circumstances allow for it through things like Skype or other video and digital apps.

“When it’s just one treatment room with one physician and one patient and you have such a limited amount of time—10, 15 minutes—only enough, as one of our founding members, Dr. Hans Diehl would always say, ‘That’s only enough time to diagnosis the ill, prescribe the pill and send the patient home with the bill,’ and that is not the way we want our healthcare system to be run,” Benigas said.

“So in a shared medical appointment environment, it will be a group of patients that may all have Type-2 diabetes or that may all be dealing with heart disease or it may just be a group all dealing with various chronic conditions, because from a lifestyle medicine standpoint, the prescription for one chronic condition is the prescription for all, and then that group will meet for successive number of weeks, maybe two hours in the evening or on the weekends over a period of eight weeks, 10 weeks, 12 weeks with a curriculum and it really does help when so much of this is based on needing to educate patients about their lifestyle behavior choices.”

Dr. Tina Discepolo is a physician based in Palm Beach County and a member of ACLM who talks to patients over a video conference app that allows her to talk to and see patients from around the world. Dis-

cepolo says her appointments last an average of 60 to 90 minutes.

“It’s still very difficult, when you have a sick patient come in, no matter how much time they spend with you in the office, we almost wish you could go home with them to get them to fully understand what they need to do and you can’t do that from an office setting,” she said.

“This is a non-judgment zone to let (patients) know they have a team behind them is really No. 1. And then No. 2, I think it’s really about educating the patient, so that they understand that most chronic disease is reversible. They have the power. And that’s a hard one to get through.”

Discepolo talks a lot about the root of many diseases, which she says largely stem from diets that contribute to things like heart disease, high cholesterol and high blood pressure.

“We are looking for core dysfunction as to ‘why does this person have three significant diagnoses and on five different medications for something that is potentially reversible?’” she said.

“I moved from a brick and mortar, moved (from New York) down here to Florida, became medical director of a facility, where folks come from all over the world to learn how to adopt a vegan diet or close to a vegan diet and it was a 21-day program and that intrigued me.”

Benigas said the organization’s growing numbers are a good sign, but they still want to expand their presence in medical and lifestyle circles.

“We really want to be a resource to help fill the gaping void that exists in regard to medical education in this country as far as lifestyle medicine is concerned and to really help to equip and empower medical professionals to integrate lifestyle medicine into their own lives and clinical practices,” she said.

Discepolo wants the ACLM to get lifestyle medicine into academia and neighborhoods and communities.

“Just like we have golf communities, people buy into these communities, imagine that, where wellness is the theme,” she said.

Visit [LifestyleMedicine.org](http://LifestyleMedicine.org).

## 5 of the least healthy holiday dishes

By **NANCY CLANTON**  
THE ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION

A lot of time and effort goes in to making a holiday meal. Tables will overflow with family favorites and traditional dishes such as candied yams and green bean casserole.

But is this food actually good for you?

A typical holiday meal can easily exceed 3,000 calories, according to research from the Calorie Control Council. Some of the least healthy dishes might also be the most popular.

Here are five to look out for:

### Deep-fried turkey

Roasted, skinless turkey is fairly healthy. When food is fried, Medical Daily points out, the amount of fat it absorbs during cooking increases. Deep frying your turkey adds calories and fat that aren’t necessary. You can save

even more calories by choosing white meat over dark. According to Bon Appetit, “an average serving of dark meat with skin hits about 200 calories and 8g fat. Save nearly 100 calories and 13 grams of fat by choosing white meat from the breast and skipping the skin.”

### Green bean casserole

Half a cup of plain green beans has only 20 calories. If you follow the green bean casserole recipe that is on a can of Campbell’s cream of mushroom soup, however, the caloric intake jumps to 227 for a half cup serving.

### Candied yams/ sweet potatoes with marshmallows

Just 4 ounces of candied sweet potatoes adds about 187 calories and 20 grams of sugar to your meal. Another thing to consider when eating all that

sugar is your teeth.

“If marshmallow-loaded candied yams are a tradition in your household it might be time to reconsider,” Dr. Matthew Mullally, a dental surgeon, told thedailymeal.com. “Marshmallows are essentially pure sugar. Also, there’s really no reason to sweeten yams. Yams themselves are loaded with sweetness, as well as nutrients that don’t stick to the surface of your teeth.”

Consumer Reports suggests a “plain baked sweet potato (103 calories) or roasted sweet potato chunks (about 120 calories per cup)” instead.

### Pumpkin cheesecake

According to Consumer Reports, a slice of pumpkin pie has about 280 calories and around 25 grams of sugars. But if you make a cheesecake from otherwise healthy pumpkin, Bon Appetit points out, “you’ll finish off dinner with a mas-



STEPHANIE FREY/DREAMSTIME/TNS

Just 4 ounces of candied sweet potatoes adds about 187 calories and 20 grams of sugar to your meal.

sive amount of calories and fat.”

“Be mindful of how much you serve yourself,” said Amy Keating, R.D., a nutritionist at Consumer Reports. “If you double or triple your portions—which is easy to do—you could consume a sky-high number of calories.”

### Stuffing with sausage

A dish that is mostly bread, butter, seasoning and sausage packs a lot of carbs. A cup of your average bread stuffing is about 175 calories. Add in

sausage, Medical Daily reports, and “you’re staring down the barrel of 400 calories per cup side dish and a week’s worth of regret.”

“Plus the stuffing absorbs a lot of the fat from the turkey,” cardiologist Dr. Adam Splaver of Hollywood, Florida, told thedailymeal.com. “Add in some sausage and you are looking at a high-calorie, fat-laden, high-sodium choice.”

Stuffing contains about 480 mg of sodium, thanks to the broth. Try using a low-sodium version this year.



# Life & Style

## Scooter Braun breaks his silence on his Taylor Swift battle

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Music manager Scooter Braun has broken his silence regarding his public beef with Taylor Swift, who has called Braun out since she discovered he

owned her master recordings.

Braun wrote a lengthy post on Instagram Friday, saying his family has received “numerous death threats” since Swift called on her legion of

fans last week to put pressure on Braun and Scott Borchetta—the owners of her masters—to allow her performance to go forward at Sunday’s American Music Awards

“I came home tonight to find my wife had received a phone call threatening the safety of our children, as well as other threats seen above. I won’t go in to the details of this past week. I have been at a loss,” wrote Braun, who also posted a screenshot of one of the vulgar messages he received.

“Thinking of my wife and children, my team and their families, I have gone through a range of emotions on how to deal with this. I write this now only after a deep breath and much reflection. I am certain there is no situation ever worth jeopardizing anyone’s safety.”

Things took a turn for the worst in June when Braun’s Ithaca Holdings announced that it acquired Big Machine Label Group, the label led by Borchetta and home to Swift’s first six albums (Swift is now signed to Universal Music

Group’s Republic Records, where she released her latest album “Lover”). Swift said she was sad and grossed out that her music catalog now belongs to Braun, who she accuses of subjecting her to years of incessant and manipulative bullying.

Braun, who manages Grammy-winners including Ariana Grande, Justin Bieber and Tori Kelly, continued to plead to Swift in his new post, explaining that her words carry weight and that he wants to resolve their issues.

“I’m open to ALL possibilities. My attempts and calls to have an open discussion with you over the last 6 months have been all rejected. While some on your team and many of our mutual friends have tried to get you to the table, all have had no luck. It almost feels as if you have no inter-

est in ever resolving the conflict,” Braun wrote. “At this point with safety becoming a concern I have no choice other than to publicly ask for us to come together and try to find a resolution.”

A representative for Swift didn’t immediately reply to an email seeking comment.

Swift is scheduled to perform at Sunday’s AMAs, which will air live on ABC from Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles. In her post last week, she said she had planned to play a medley of her hits at the AMAs but that it was up in the air—along with a forthcoming Netflix documentary—because the men who own her old recordings won’t allow her to play her songs. Her post ignited social media, with the hashtags #IStandWithTaylor and #FreeTaylor trending heavily on Twitter.

## Impeachment story illustrates news industry changes

**NEW YORK (AP)**—For readers of some prominent regional newspapers, following the impeachment inquiry is a far different experience depending on whether you seek out newsprint or go digital.

Copies of The Charlotte Observer, Tampa Bay Times, Indianapolis Star, St. Louis Post-Dispatch and Idaho Statesman that arrived on doorsteps Thursday all had a story about Ambassador Gordon Sondland’s testimony at the top of their front pages.

“Everyone was in the loop,” was the headline in St. Louis. “Trump directed pressure on Ukraine,” was how it was put in Charlotte.

Yet if you clicked onto each newspaper’s website mid-morning, you’d see a different lead story. In Indianapolis, it was about racist tweets by an Indiana University professor. Idaho readers learned Boise was a finalist, but a loser, in the competition for a Nike plant. St. Louis reported on testimony in the trial of an elderly mother who killed her disabled daughter.

The impeachment hearings weren’t mentioned on The Charlotte Observer’s home page. In St. Louis and Idaho, the references were limited to links about editorial cartoons. The online IndyStar stressed a local angle: what Sondland said about Vice President Mike Pence, the former Indiana governor.

It’s a stark reflection of how the news business is changing.

Editors say their print and digital editions are completely different products. The online edition is built with business, not necessarily news, top of mind.

“We’re not anti-national news,” said Ronnie Ramos, executive editor in Indianapolis. But readers tell the newspaper—and the clicks each article gets—confirm that local stories are the most popular for online readers.

Regional newspaper websites across the country stick strongly to that local-first approach. Tampa Bay’s home page had nothing about impeachment mid-day Tuesday, but linked to one reader’s Brooklyn Blackout Cake recipe.



In this Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019, file photo, U.S. Ambassador to the European Union Gordon Sondland testifies before the House Intelligence Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington, during a public impeachment hearing of President Donald Trump’s efforts to tie U.S. aid for Ukraine to investigations of his political opponents. AP

“It would be wonderful if readers considered a general interest regional metro news organization in Florida to be the go-to site for impeachment proceedings occurring inside the Beltway,” said Mark Katches, Tampa Bay’s executive editor. “But I’m not sure that’s terribly realistic. If we tried to play in that space competitively, I’d question whether it would be a productive use of our time and energy.”

During the final hearing on Thursday, The Washington Post’s website’s headline was “Fiona Hill warns of GOP’s ‘fictional narrative’ on Ukraine.” The site had links to live video, live updates written by Post reporters, prepared testimony by the day’s two witnesses and stories, a news analysis on Sondland’s testimony and a profile of Republican Rep. Jim Jordan. The New York Times site was similarly exhaustive in its offerings.

Given the import of a story that played out on television screens all day, the treatment on regional websites “strikes me as not exercising appropriate editorial judgment in terms of serving up one of the biggest stories of the day,” said Penelope Muse Abernathy, professor of journalism and digital media economics at the University of North Carolina.

Editors don’t doubt the import of impeachment, and readers are interested. But the national media are much better equipped to handle the story, said Gilbert Bailon, editor of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Instead, the newspapers

view local stories as the best way to use dwindling resources and make themselves an indispensable product in their markets.

The digital product is also more dynamic, updated several times a day. Most online readers of The Charlotte Observer find articles through search engines or social media, said Sherry Chisenhall, executive editor.

“Readers don’t browse the home page in the way we always assumed they did for the printed front page,” Chisenhall said. “The website doesn’t function so much as a front page in that way.”

Editors consider the print newspaper something different, a chance to “lock in a first draft of history,” as Katches said. While most people visit dozens of websites while online, they’re apt to subscribe to only one newspaper. They want a reflection of the day, and that calls for a more balanced mix between local and national news, Ramos said.

“They want the full spectrum,” Katches said. “I haven’t encountered the same expectation among digital readers.”

The newspapers’ online strategy likely represents their best chance to survive in a world where the industry’s traditional business model has collapsed. One unexpected benefit is a greater investment in investigative journalism, said Rich Gordon, professor and director of digital innovation at Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism.

## UK treasure hunters jailed for stealing Viking-era hoard



This undated handout photo provided by the British Museum shows a coin which was part of a £3 million Viking hoard, metal detectorists George Powell and Layton Davies have been convicted of stealing. AP

**LONDON (AP)**—Two amateur British treasure-hunters were sentenced Friday to long prison terms for stealing a hoard of 1,100-year-old Anglo-Saxon coins and jewelry valued at millions of pounds (dollars).

Experts say the hoard—much of which is still missing—could shed new light on a period when Saxons were battling the Vikings for control of England. The trove is thought to have been buried in the late 9th century by a member of a Viking army that was being pushed east across England by an alliance of Saxon forces.

The collection of gold and silver jewelry and up to 300 coins was dug up in 2015 on farmland in central England by metal detectorists George Powell and Layton Davies. They were convicted this

week of failing to report the hoard, as required by law.

Instead, they tried to sell some of the bounty through antiquities dealers. Some of the jewelry and about 30 coins are all that have been recovered.

Prosecutor Kevin Hegarty said the hoard’s value had been estimated at between 3 million pounds and 12 million pounds (\$3.9 million to \$15.4 million) and added that a find of “immense archaeological, historical and academic value” had been lost to the nation.

The hoard “represents a nationally important assemblage created at the very point England was forming and becoming a nation with a single identity under the vision of (King) Alfred the Great,” he said.

Powell, 38, who was described as having the leading role in the crime, was sen-

tenced to 10 years in prison by a judge at Worcester Crown Court in central England. Davies, 51, received an 8 ½-year sentence. Two other men were convicted of helping to conceal the find.

Judge Nicholas Cartwright said the irony was that if the two treasure-hunters had just reported the find to the authorities, they would have been in line for a reward of a third to half of its value.

“You could not have done worse than 500,000 pounds each,” he said. “But you wanted more.”

The two men have not disclosed the location of the missing items.

Powell’s lawyer, James Tucker, said his client now “wishes he had never found the treasure.”

“It became a temptation—and for him, a curse,” he said.



# Prince Andrew's troubles not over despite change in status

**LONDON** (AP)—Britain's Prince Andrew continues to face many hurdles despite his decision to step down from royal duties because of his friendship with billionaire sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

The 59-year-old prince, who is Queen Elizabeth II's son, is struggling to stay at the helm of his Pitch&Palace charity, with some British media reports indicating he has already stepped down.

A number of the charity's corporate backers including Barclays have stopped supporting the project, which brings young entrepreneurs together with companies that can help put their ideas into practice.

Buckingham Palace says Pitch@Palace is in a period of transition and that the ties to the palace will be dropped. It may be known as Pitch in the future.

Andrew faces continued scrutiny that is expected to intensify when a BBC interview with his primary accuser is

broadcast.

The broadcast with Virginia Roberts Giuffre is set for Dec. 2. She says she had sex with Andrew three times, starting when she was 17.

Andrew denies the accusation and says he doesn't have any recollection of meeting her, despite a photograph showing him with his arm around her.

Giuffre says she was a victim of a sex trafficking scheme operated by Epstein, a billionaire financier who died in prison in August in what was ruled a suicide.

Many legal papers relating to the case remained sealed to the public.

Andrew's troubles reached a crescendo after he tried to end speculation about the matter by giving a live TV interview one week ago in which he didn't express concern for Epstein's young victims and defended his relationship with the financier.



The backlash was almost instantaneous and led to the extremely rare decision to remove him from a carefully cultivated royal role.

Queen Elizabeth II hasn't commented in public on the scandal and showed her support for Andrew Friday by going

horseback riding with him on the grounds of Windsor Castle within view of a photographer.

Some of the victims' lawyers are calling for Andrew to voluntarily give evidence to U.S. officials or face a possible subpoena that could force him to testify under oath.

## Disgraced Prince Andrew faces uncertain role in future

**LONDON** (AP)—Prince Andrew is scaling back travel and facing an uncertain future as he steps away from the royal role he has embraced for his entire adult life.

The latest blow came Friday afternoon when the board of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra announced that it was cutting ties to Andrew, who had been its patron, and Barclays said it would no longer be involved with Andrew's prized Pitch@Palace enterprise.

The 59-year-old prince has suffered numerous setbacks in the six days since the broadcast of a disastrous TV interview from Buckingham Palace during which he defended his friendship with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. Epstein, who was facing new sex crimes charges, died in a New York prison in August in what the New York City medical examiner ruled was a suicide.

The Times newspaper said in an editorial Friday that the debacle demonstrates the need for "urgent reform" of the royal household. The paper urged Andrew's older brother and heir to the throne, Prince Charles, to take steps to streamline and make the royal family "more modest."

The disgraced prince scuttled plans for a trip to Bahrain that had been planned to support his Pitch@Palace project, according to the British news media, even though he is struggling to keep that enterprise going

despite cutting ties to dozens of other charities.

Those hopes suffered a setback Friday evening when one of the charity's official corporate sponsors said it would no longer participate "in light of the current situation."

Andrew did go horseback riding with his mother, 93-year-old Queen Elizabeth II, near Windsor Castle on Friday afternoon despite the harsh November weather. The monarch has not commented publicly on her son's troubles.

There was a visceral public backlash to his TV interview—particularly because Andrew did not express sympathy for Epstein's young female victims—that led leading British politicians to comment on the future of the monarchy in a televised debate ahead of the Dec. 12 national election.

Shortly after the interview, Andrew announced that he was halting his royal duties "for the foreseeable future."

Up until now, Andrew, the queen's third child, had been able to skate away from troublesome questions about his private life and his extravagant lifestyle. His association with Epstein had been known for more than eight years, but it only took him down after he went on TV to discuss it.

Andrew is trying to find a way to keep alive at least one of his projects without relying on the prestige—and real estate—of the royal family.

## Winfrey, Coates among speakers at tribute to Toni Morrison

**NEW YORK** (AP)—In offering tribute to Toni Morrison, speakers from Oprah Winfrey to Fran Lebowitz on Thursday each shared a very different, but equally special portrait of the late Nobel laureate, who died in August at 88.

Angela Davis remembered a dear friend who as a Random House editor helped launch her writing career and would jot down notes for what became the classic "Song of Solomon" as she cooked eggs for her family. Lebowitz

marveled at Morrison's seemingly photographic memory of the bad reviews she had received. Poet Kevin Young once went to the movies ("The Five Heartbeats") with her and otherwise proudly sat at her feet. Winfrey spoke of Morrison's majestic, sometimes intimidating presence, and of the complexity of her work, novels such as "Beloved" for which a single reading was not enough. She also acknowledged that her heroine, so down to earth on some oc-

casions, was well aware that she really was Toni Morrison.

"She told me once, 'I've always known I was gallant,'" Winfrey confided to thousands gathered at sundown at Manhattan's historic Cathedral of St. John the Divine, where more than 30 years earlier Morrison had been among those saying goodbye to James Baldwin. "Who says that? Who even goes there?"

With its massive rose window and nave ceiling reaching more than 100 feet, the cathe-

dral was suitably grand for an author who may well endure as the essential American literary voice of her time, one who universalized the stories of black Americans and raised American prose to poetic heights. Attendees were young and old, of diverse genders and races, members of the publishing world and longtime fans. They filled the front seats, and the back seats. Some sat quietly through the roughly 100-minute ceremony, others murmured, affirmed and cheered out loud.

## From 'Knives Out' to Bond, Ana de Armas is on the rise

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Ana de Armas is fumbling with a packet of sugar and talking about her breakneck schedule on a recent afternoon in Los Angeles when her already enormous almond eyes widen even further.

"Do I have avocado on my face?" she asks somewhat nervously. She doesn't, but the 31-year-old Cuba-born actress has been feeling a little frazzled lately. It's been hard to find time to eat, let alone do a spot check in a mirror.

De Armas left the New Orleans set of Adrian Lyne's Patricia Highsmith adaptation "Deep Water" the night before to attend the premiere of Rian Johnson's Agatha Christie-inspired whodunnit "Knives Out," which opens on Thanks-

giving. It was a brief respite; after a few days of interviews, de Armas flew back to continue filming.

And it's been that way for a few years now. She's filmed not only "Knives Out," but the next James Bond, "No Time to Die," the Marilyn Monroe movie "Blonde" (she plays none other than the former Norma Jeane) and a film about the late United Nations diplomat Sergio Vieira de Mello.

In fact, she was looking forward to a little bit of a break when "Knives Out" came her way at the tail end of the grueling three-month shoot for "Sergio" in Thailand. And the description she got wasn't ex-

actly an enticing one.

"I get this email saying, 'Nurse in a house and she's Latina and she's pretty and this is the scene,'" she recalled. "And I was like 'Are you kidding me? I don't know what this is about.' That little description doesn't say anything to me, it doesn't speak to me."

De Armas knew that Johnson had written and would direct the film and that a big star, Daniel Craig, was attached. She's also protective of her career and needed to know more before she would even agree to audition. Although she speaks naturally with an accent, she's worked hard to prove herself capable of play-



de Armas



## First Marvel Comics issue sells in Texas for \$1.26 million

**DALLAS (AP)**—A rare near-mint condition copy of the first Marvel Comics comic book has sold at auction in Dallas for \$1.26 million.

Heritage Auctions says the Marvel Comics No. 1 from 1939 sold Thursday. Heritage says the buyer wished to remain anonymous.

Ed Jaster, senior vice president at Heritage, calls it “a historic copy of a historic comic book.” The issue features the

first appearances of characters such as the Human Torch, Ka-Zar, Angel and the Sub-Mariner.

Heritage says the comic book was first purchased at a newsstand by a Uniontown, Pennsylvania, mail carrier who made a practice of buying the first issue of comic books and magazines. Jaster says that since then, the issue has only changed owners a handful of times.



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

This Oct. 8, 2019 image provided by Heritage Auctions shows a rare near mint condition copy of the first Marvel Comics comic book.

## Iggy Azalea, Playboy Carti report \$366K in stolen jewelry

**ATLANTA (AP)** — Rappers Iggy Azalea and Playboi Carti have told Atlanta police that \$366,000 worth of jewelry was stolen from their rental home.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reports a police report filed Nov. 17 lists 19 pieces of jewelry including diamond

rings, platinum bracelets and luxury watches.

Amethyst Kelly, who performs as Iggy Azalea, told police the theft occurred Nov. 14, when the back door



Azelea

was unlocked so Jordan Carter, known as Playboi Carti, could get in.

The report says that at some point, they realized a designer bag in which they keep jew-

elry was missing from the second-floor dining room of their 6,500-square-foot (600-square-meter) home.

It says surveillance video shows a masked gunman wearing gloves coming in the back door just after 9:50 p.m. and leaving within 10 minutes.

## Apple delays 'The Banker' theatrical release amid review

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Apple on Friday delayed the theatrical release of its first original film, “The Banker” amid misconduct allegations against one of the film’s co-producers.

A person familiar with the plans who was not authorized to discuss them publicly confirmed Friday that the film’s Dec. 6 re-

lease was being delayed.

The delay comes days after Apple canceled the film’s premiere at the AFI Film Festival in Los Angeles, citing unspecified concerns about the movie and saying it needed time to review them.

The Hollywood Reporter published a story Wednesday

that said the premiere was canceled after two relatives of Bernard Garrett Jr., who is a co-producer on the film, accused him of molesting them when they were girls.

Attempts to reach Garrett Jr. at several phone numbers listed to him were unsuccessful Friday.

The film is based on the life of Garrett’s father, Bernard, who in the 1950s and ’60s recruited a white man to pose as the face of his expansive real estate and banking business. Bernard Garrett, who is played by Anthony Mackie in the film, was convicted of misusing bank funds in 1968.

## Lily Tomlin is sorry she agreed to end 'Grace and Frankie'

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Regrets? Lily Tomlin has at least one: Her decision to end her Netflix sitcom “Grace and Frankie,” which co-stars Jane Fonda.

“Well, Jane and I are kind of sad about it, you know, because, I mean, we talked about doing it,” Tomlin explained on Thursday night before she was honored by the Paley Center

for Media along with Bob Newhart, Norman Lear, Carl Reiner and Carol Burnett.

“I mean, we’ve talked about it with (production company) Skydance and Netflix... We kind of decided to wrap it up after seven seasons. And



Tomlin

now that it’s come, Jane and I are sorry. We really love it. We love this show. We love each other and we love our cast, our crew. Marta (Kauffman) and Howard (J. Morris) are so great having created the show. And then we’ll be out of a job.”

If there is a silver lining, the now-or-never pressure of a final season may finally inspire Tomlin and Fonda’s “9 to 5” co-star Dolly Parton to accept a long-standing invitation to do a guest shot on the series.

“Yeah, we hope,” Tomlin said. “We hope Dolly makes it this last season. She’s got to. Write her and tell her.”

### SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

#### Pollstar says U2 top touring act over the last decade

**NEW YORK (AP)** — It was a beautiful decade for U2 on the touring front, as the Rock and Roll Hall of Famers raked in over \$1 billion in sales to be named the artist of the decade by Pollstar. The touring trade publication tracks data on tours globally. It says U2 grossed \$1.03 billion in ticket sales from November 2009 to November 2019. They

were followed by The Rolling Stones, which had just under a billion with \$929 million; Ed Sheeran was third with \$922 million; Taylor Swift was fourth with an estimated \$900 million; and Beyonce was at No. 5 with \$857 million. Rounding out the top 10 were Bon Jovi, Paul McCartney, Coldplay, Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band and Roger Waters. VenuesNow, Pollstar’s sister outlet, named London’s O2 the top grossing venue.

#### Roc Nation adds reggae star Buju Banton to its roster

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Jay-Z’s Roc Nation company has added reggae star Buju Banton to its jam-packed roster. On Friday Roc Nation announced the partnership with the reggae and dancehall king, whose comeback concert held earlier this year in his native Jamaica was one of the country’s largest shows. More than 30,000 people attended

the concert. Banton, 46, will celebrate the new deal with Friday’s music video release for his song “Steppa.” The performer released his first album in the earlier ’90s and he’s become one of the important and respected acts in reggae. “Before the Dawn,” his last album released 2010, won the Grammy for best reggae album. Banton was released in December 2018 after serving seven years in federal prison on drug charges.

## Daytime babysitter makes herself too much at home

**DEAR ABBY:** I need advice on how to discuss a sensitive matter with my son and daughter-in-law’s babysitter. She watches my grandson Monday through Friday while they are at work. They live with me, and I work from home, so I am around all day while she’s sitting with the baby.

Overall, she’s pretty good, but we have discovered her asleep in my son and daughter-in-law’s bed a couple of times. She also changes into my son’s clothing occasionally, which makes my daughter-in-law very uncomfortable.

My daughter-in-law needs to have a discussion about it with her but doesn’t know how to approach the matter. My suggestion was for her to be clear and tell the woman she’s uncomfortable with the behavior and ask her to stop. What do you think?

NOT SITTING WELL IN THE SOUTH

**DEAR NOT SITTING:** Your daughter-in-law should ask her babysitter why she’s crawling into their bed and putting on her employer’s clothes because, frankly, what’s going on is bizarre. The sitter should be told she’s not being paid to sleep on the job. And further, that dressing up in the husband’s attire is forbidden, and if it happens again she will be replaced.

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband and I took our children trick-or-treating in my mom’s neighborhood because we live in a rural area, and there’s no trick-or-treating where we are. When we

were done, we found a letter taped onto our windshield telling us how rude we were for bringing our kids trick-or-treating in a neighborhood we don’t live in. I mentioned it to several friends and family members afterward, and the reactions were mixed. Some sided with us, and others sided with the note writer.

We’re not sure what to do from now on. Is it rude to go into another neighborhood when there is no trick-or-treating in your own? What are families who live in areas with no trick-or-treating or who live in unsafe neighborhoods supposed to do?

TRICKED, BUT NOT TREATED

**DEAR TRICKED:** Whoever wrote that note must have been the neighborhood witch. It is NOT unusual for parents who live in neighborhoods such as yours to bring their children to more populated areas to trick or treat. It happens every Halloween. Don’t let it get you down.

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband and I were married in college and now have two adult, college-educated daughters. We have worked hard, and we own a successful business. Unfortunately, my husband has been in and out of the hospital for the last eight years. When he’s not in the hospital, he’s very active and involved with the family. However, his almost-yearly hospitalizations take their toll on all of us.

My question: What role should his parents (in their 80s) play in his health-care decisions? They say he’s their son and they have a right. I have said I and our daughters will help him to

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



make those decisions. Am I wrong? This has been bothering me and my daughters for eight long years!

WHOSE CHOICE IN THE WEST

**DEAR WHOSE CHOICE:** The choice of who should make his health-care decisions should be unable to do it for himself should be your HUSBAND’S. Those wishes should be formalized in a health-care directive and shared with family members. Once someone becomes an adult, the responsibility for carrying out those wishes usually rests with one’s spouse or children rather than one’s parents.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order “How to Have a Lovely Wedding.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



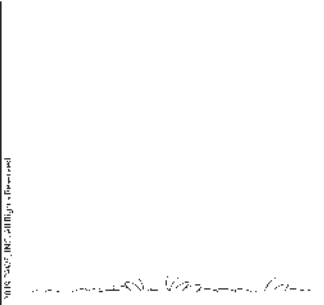
# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

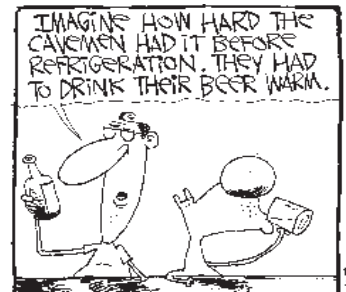
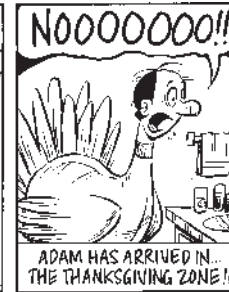


## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Crunchy sandwich  
4 And so on (Abbr.)  
7 Broadway offering  
11 Ocho —, Jamaica  
13 Eastern "way"  
14 O'Hara estate  
15 Send forth  
16 Swiss peak  
17 Spanish cheers  
18 Luxury watch brand  
20 Overly theatrical  
22 Vigor  
24 Answer with a salute  
28 Develop  
32 Freak out  
33 Starting  
34 Dazzle  
36 Astro-nauts' org.  
37 Barber's tool  
39 Dwell on

**DOWN**

41 Sound system  
43 Misbe-  
44 Undulating state  
50 Coffee  
53 Listener  
55 Gloom  
56 Lab gel  
57 Monopoly (Abbr.)  
58 Lighten  
59 First-place medal  
60 Potent stick  
61 Pop

**1 Rabbit's title**  
**Solution time: 26 mins.**

V	E	S	T	S	M	A	N	M	C	S		
A	N	T	I	C	O	B	I	E	L	L		
N	E	A	T	O	J	U	B	I	L	E		
N	O	J	G	A	T	N	E	A	S			
A	I	L	R	E	V	A	G	E	N			
P	I	F	A	R	E	F	A	R	M			
P	L	E	V	J	M	D	I	A	P	E		
D	I	S	C	O	R	A	C	K				
P	E	A	R	S	A	B	S	R	O			
A	R	T	E	R	E	E	P					
G	A	L	L	I	L	E	E	W	E	L	T	S
A	S	A	E	V	T	E	D	E	N	S		
N	E	W	I	T	S	D	I	E	T	S		

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Katie Cassidy, 33; Jerry Ferrara, 40; Christina Apple-gate, 48; Bruno Tonioli, 64.

**Happy Birthday:** Think matters through from start to finish. Overextending yourself mentally, financial-ly or physically will set you back. Balance will be the key to reaching your destination on time and achiev-ing all that you set out to do. A quieter approach to life, love and happiness will help you flourish in ways you never thought possible. Live, love and laugh. Your numbers are 2, 13, 17, 28, 31, 36, 45.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Express your feelings, and open up about what you want. Show support and offer sug-gestions. Work to build stronger relationships with the people you care about most. Be obser-vant, learn and prepare to make a move that will improve your lifestyle. \*\*\*

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Don't fear change; embrace the opportunity to experience something new and different. Show a little creativity, and try new things. Put your energy into helping the flow, not fighting to keep things the same. Accept the inevitable, and embrace the future. \*\*\*

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Designate more time to taking care of personal busi-ness. Refuse to let anyone occupy your time or trick you into doing things you don't care to do. Making a personal improvement will bring you the highest return. Romance is encouraged. \*\*\*

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): The more you socialize or network with colleagues, the better. Running your ideas by some-

one who has more experience will help you see greater possibilities. Stretch your mind, and don't fear doing things differently. Explore, expand and execute your plans. \*\*\*\*\*

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): You will do best if you observe. Don't put yourself in a posi-tion that will force you to make a move. Put greater emphasis on how you look and feel and what you are capable of doing. Love is on the rise. \*\*

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Learn through experience. Volunteer your time, and associate with people who know more than you. Implement change if it will help you get ahead. Your intuition will help you make better decisions when dealing with relationships, children or older relatives. \*\*\*\*

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll learn the most and do your best if you consort with people with more experience. Sticking close to home or spending time with people who don't have anything positive to offer will lead to stagnation. Embrace the world around you. \*\*\*

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take an innovative idea to the next level. You'll grab the attention of someone who has a vision. A change you make will draw you out of your comfort zone into a place that will help you grow and gain valuable experience. \*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Proceed with an open mind, a positive attitude and an honest assessment of what's happening and what's possible. The way to make your lie or a situation you face better comes from being realistic. \*\*\*

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A steady pace forward will pay off. Your smart and unyielding persistence will help you get your way. A change at home will encourage better life decisions. Don't share your plans until you have everything in place. \*\*\*\*

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't get trapped in someone's drama or feel you have to make a change because someone else does. Follow your heart, do your own thing and focus on what brings you the most joy. Personal gain and improvement are favored. \*\*

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Get your papers in order, help a cause you care about and make changes that will benefit you. Refuse to let anyone entice you into wasting time, being indulgent or getting involved in some-thing that isn't in your best interest. \*\*\*\*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You are well-liked, admirable and proactive. You are innovative and compas-sionate.

Visit [Eugenialast.com](http://Eugenialast.com), or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

			6	1					
	7								8
8	1	3	7			6			
4	2				8		6	3	
	6	7	4	3	2	1	8		
1	3		5				4	9	
		4			3	9	5	1	
6							2		
			1	5					

Difficulty Level ★

11/25

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

6	5	8	1	3	2	9	7	4
7	3	2	4	6	9	1	5	8
9	1	4	8	7	5	3	2	6
4	2	7	6	5	1	8	3	9
1	9	6	3	2	8	7	4	5
5	8	3	9	4	7	6	1	2
8	7	5	2	9	3	4	6	1
2	6	1	7	8	4	5	9	3
3	4	9	5	1	6	2	8	7

Difficulty Level ★★

11/25

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

JON, JOHN, JOHNNY

Solution: 7 letters

M S T A M O S T E P O P W G M  
E A T D E P P E Y E A K A N A  
E R C E W A L L L L T M L I H  
T C O D I T T R A W E T S A S  
H A M M O N D B D A S R H C I  
G R B N Y N B N A Y D N A C R  
I R N R L A R E L P A U L M G  
O A E E A D R A L C M T A E R A  
V D W I A H A A D K T I E H L  
E I Y M L N A O B L E E S E L  
S N S E N L O M O E N A N T I  
A E Y O L G Y V N G C N T T A  
N O C A E D A D H E O Y T S N  
E L A C W R I B O N J O V I O  
C N O S T A W R J D G L E N N

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11/25

Abraham, Adams, Baptist, Barrymore, Bon Jovi, Cale, Candy, Carradine, Cash, Cena, Connolly, Daly, Deacon, Depp, Elton, Elway, Galliano, Game, Glenn, Goodman, Gotti, Green, Grisham, Hammond, John, Keats, Legend, Lennon, Lewis, MacDonald, McCain, Oates, Paul, Pope, Reilly, Ridley, Stamos, Steinbeck, Stewart, Travolta, Tyler, Voight, Wall, Walsh, Watson, Wayne

Last Friday's Answer: Formula

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# MLB widens probe on Astros, 'firm' discipline possible

**ARLINGTON, Texas** (AP)—Major League Baseball has widened its investigation of alleged sign stealing by the Houston Astros and will probe activity by the team over the past three seasons.

After the conclusion of owners meetings Thursday, baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said MLB will “investigate the Astros situation as thoroughly as humanly possible.” The probe includes the team’s firing of an assistant general manager during the World Series for clubhouse comments directed at female reporters, behavior the club at first accused Sports Illustrated of fabricating.

“That investigation is going to encompass not only what we know about ‘17, but also ‘18 and ‘19,” Manfred said. “To the extent we are talking to people all over the industry, former employees, competitors, whatever. To the extent that we find other leads, we’re going to follow these leads.”

Manfred has said for now the Astros are the only team being investigated for cheating allegations.

“Our clubs, all 30 of them, recognize that the integrity of the competition on the field is crucial to what we do every day,” he said. “I think that there’s wide support across the industry for the idea that when we have a problem in this area, there should be firm, serious disciplinary action that discourages people from engaging in this type of behavior.”

Oakland pitcher Mike Fiers told The Athletic in a story last week that while he was playing with the Astros during their 2017 World Series championship season the team stole



In this Sept. 5, 2018 file photo, Houston Astros’ Jose Altuve signals to George Springer on second base after scoring on a double by the latter during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Minnesota Twins in Houston. AP

signs during home games by using a camera positioned in center field. During this year’s playoffs, Houston players were suspected of whistling in the dugout to communicate pitch selection to batters.

Asked if he wished more had been done before Fiers spoke out publicly, Manfred said baseball has chased every lead it has received to the “the extent that we felt was investigatively possible.”

“Obviously, an individual breaking what is a pretty firm commitment to silence about what goes on in dugouts and in clubhouses is a big break in an investigation, provides an opportunity to push forward that we haven’t had previously,” Manfred said.

Manfred fined the Boston Red Sox in September 2017 for using an Apple Watch to steal signals from New York Yankees catchers.

“It’s a challenge for our sport and all sports to regulate the use of that technology in a way that makes sure that we have integrity in our play,” he said.

When the Red Sox were fined, only weeks before the Astros won their first World Series title, Manfred said all 30 clubs were notified that future violations would be subject to more serious sanctions, including the possible loss of draft picks.

“I wrote what I wrote because I did not believe that the discipline that have been handed out in the past were in line

with the significance of the issues that we deal dealing with,” he said. “I viewed them with a particular level of seriousness.”

As whether he felt that was sufficient and his message received, Manfred responded: “Well, we know at least one instance it probably wasn’t heeded.”

Astros owner Jim Crane declined comment on the allegations when he was seen in the hotel lobby Wednesday, and Manfred wouldn’t talk about any conversations they had this week.

## Electronic tools

Astros players have been asked about a number of potential methods to decipher and relay signs to batters—

including buzzing bandages, hidden earpieces, algorithms to decode signs and more — during MLB’s investigation.

It’s worth noting that this is not a report the Astros used such methods. The league reportedly has not concluded on that either way. Instead, it’s an indication of the breadth of possible cheating methods that MLB is trying to wrangle with as it handles its biggest scandal since the steroid era.

As things currently stand, the only method the Astros allegedly used that has been definitively reported is the trash can set-up, for which a truckload of corroborating video and audio evidence has emerged, as well as the likely trash can itself.

In other issues, while MLB and the players’ association decided to start labor talks more than two years before their contract expires in December 2021, negotiations with union head Tony Clark and top lawyer Bruce Meyer have not progressed.

“Mr. Meyer suggested a series of changes that would turn the Basic Agreement back 50 years, I mean essentially give back to the union everything we’ve achieved over the last few decades,” Manfred said. “I asked in response to his suggestion what was in that deal for the clubs? And he said labor, peace. ... I said to him labor peace is a mutual benefit. It’s not something that you trade economics against.”

**CHICAGO** (AP)—Jose Abreu agreed to a \$50 million, three-year contract with the White Sox, eight days after the first baseman accepted Chicago’s qualifying offer of a \$17.8 million, one-year deal.

Abreu receives a \$5 million signing bonus payable on July 1 and salaries of \$11 million in 2020, \$16 million in 2021 and \$18 million in 2022 as part of the agreement announced Friday. Chicago is deferring \$4 million of his 2022 salary, payable in equal installments each July 1 from 2023 through 2026.

He gets a full no-trade provision for 2020 and has the right to block deals to 10 teams in 2021 and five in 2022.

“From the moment he stepped into the major leagues, José Abreu has been a leader on the field and in the clubhouse,” White Sox

## White Sox land Grandal, re-sign Abreu

general manager Rick Hahn said in a statement. “He has consistently delivered run production at a historic pace, and with each passing season, his leadership role within our clubhouse — with both American-born and Latin-American players — has repeatedly grown. It’s certainly no surprise that both José and the White Sox were comfortable with a multiyear commitment moving forward.”

Abreu, who turns 33 in January, hit .284 with 33 homers last season. His 123 RBIs were second to Anthony Rendon’s major league-best 126 for Washington.

Meanwhile, Chicago announced a \$73 million, four-year contract on Thursday with free-agent catcher Yasmani Grandal.

Abreu has the same award package as Grandal. He would earn a \$100,000 bonus if voted AL MVP, \$90,000 for finishing second, \$80,000 for third, \$70,000 for fourth and \$60,000 for fifth. He would get \$100,000 for World Series MVP, \$75,000 for League Championship Series MVP, \$50,000 if he is selected an All-Star by The Sporting News, \$25,000 each if he starts in the All-Star Game or wins a Gold Glove, and \$15,000 apiece if he is an All-Star reserve or wins a Silver Slugger.

In Seattle, the Mariners are locking up Evan White for the future before he ever plays a major league game.

Seattle and White have reached agreement on a \$24 million, six-year contract,

according to a person with knowledge of the deal. The person spoke to The Associated Press on Friday on the condition of anonymity because the deal had not been announced. The contract is expected to be finalized sometime next week. MLB.com first reported the agreement.

The 23-year-old White was the 17th overall pick in the 2017 amateur draft out of Kentucky. From the time he joined the Mariners system he’s been regarded as the club’s first baseman of the future because of his excellent defense in the field and a solid bat at the plate.

White joins the likes of Philadelphia’s Scott Kingery and the Chicago White Sox Eloy Jiménez, who signed long-term deals

with their teams before ever making it to the majors. What makes White unique is he has yet to play above Double-A, yet Seattle is showing how much it believes in White’s potential by making this commitment.

Seattle sees White as a major part of its future core, along with fellow top prospects Jarred Kelenic, Kyle Lewis, Logan Gilbert, Justin Dunn and Justus Sheffield.

White should have a chance to earn the starting job at first base during spring training as the Mariners used eight different players at first last year. Austin Nola and Daniel Vogelbach had the most games there, but Seattle thinks White is a better defender.

While White’s defense has been highly regarded, his bat

isn’t bad, either. He hit .293 with 18 homers and 55 RBIs at Double-A Arkansas last season. In parts of three seasons in the minors, White has hit .296 with an .832 OPS.

In New York, the Yankees plan to not pay Jacoby Ellsbury the remaining \$26 million due under his contract, contending he violated the deal by getting unauthorized medical treatment.

New York’s general manager sent a letter to Ellsbury and his agent, Scott Boras, informing them the team converted his contract to a non-guaranteed deal, a person familiar with the decision told The Associated Press on Friday. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the team had not made any public statements.

Ellsbury has not played since 2017 and was released by the Yankees on Wednesday.



# Lakers top Grizzlies for 7th straight win



**MEMPHIS, Tenn.** (AP) — LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers knew they would be tired playing their second game in as many nights.

Experience made the difference against the young and rested Memphis Grizzlies.

James scored on a driving layup with 1:30 left to put Los Angeles ahead to stay as the Lakers held off the Grizzlies 109-108 on Saturday night for their seventh straight victory.

“We just kept our composure,” James said. “That’s what we do. We are a very resilient team.”

The Grizzlies had a final chance with the ball and 1.3 seconds left. Jaren Jackson Jr. went sprawling trying to corral Kyle Anderson’s inbounds pass.

“I was going to catch it and see if I had time to get a shot off or hit Ja (Morant), who would’ve probably been running full speed right next to me,” Jackson said. “Obviously, we didn’t get to do all that.”

James finished with 30 points. Anthony Davis added 22, Rajon Rondo had 14, Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 12 and Dwight Howard had 10.

Morant led Memphis with 26 points. Jae Crowder added 21, Jackson finished with 20, Dillon Brooks had 12 and Anderson scored 10, making rookie coach Taylor Jenkins very proud.

“If we can play like that every night, we have ourselves a chance,” Jenkins said.

The Lakers showed the effects of winning in Oklahoma City on Friday night. James made clear on social media he had trouble getting a nap with their hotel across the street from the FedExForum, where No. 16 Memphis beat Mississippi 87-86 earlier Saturday.

“We’re lucky to get out of here with a win. Credit to the Grizzlies for coming out strong,” said Lakers coach Frank Vogel, who used earplugs to help him rest. “There young guys really came after us, in the first quarter in particular. Morant and Jackson are special talents and they put us in a hole.”

LA never led in the first half and trailed by as much as 15 in the second quarter. The Lakers got going in the third and opened the fourth by jumping out to their biggest lead at 94-87.

The Grizzlies led 105-100 on a tip-in by Brandon Clarke with 3:24 to go. The Lak-



ers scored the next nine with James hitting his layup for the go-ahead bucket, and Davis followed by tipping in James’ miss for a 109-105 lead with 53.5 seconds left.

Morant’s layup with 28 seconds left pulled Memphis within a point. James missed a jumper with the Grizzlies grabbing the rebound to set up the final try.

The Grizzlies lost their third straight on a night they wore their Vancouver teal uniforms for the first time to celebrate their 25th NBA season along with a throwback court.

Memphis led 35-25 after the first quarter and 63-55 at halftime.

## **Bucks 104, Pistons 90**

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 28 points and 10 rebounds for his 16th consecutive double-double to help the Bucks beat Detroit.

Wesley Mathews added 13 points and Eric Bledsoe scored 11 for the Bucks, who improved their record to an Eastern Conference best 13-3.

Derrick Rose had 20 points, Langston Galloway had 13, and Andre Drummond had 12 points and 17 rebounds for Detroit, which played without Blake Griffin.

Antetokounmpo is the first

player to open the season with 16 consecutive double-doubles since Moses Malone did it with the Houston Rockets in 1981.

## **76ers 113, Heat 86**

In Philadelphia, Josh Richardson scored 32 points and the 76ers led from start to finish over Jimmy Butler and Miami.

Joel Embiid added 23 points and 11 rebounds for the 76ers, who won their fourth straight overall while improving to 7-0 at home.

Butler struggled to 11 points, missing nine of 13 field goal attempts in his return to Philadelphia. He sat out the entire fourth quarter.

Tyler Herro had 20 points to pace the Heat, who had won five in a row.

## **Suns 100, Timberwolves 98**

In Minneapolis, Devin Booker had 35 points, 12 rebounds and nine assists, and Phoenix beat Minnesota in a matchup of short-handed teams.

Kelly Oubre Jr. added 25 points and 10 rebounds for the Suns, who had lost three in a row.

Phoenix was clinging to a 98-95 lead when Minnesota star Karl-Anthony Towns missed a 3-pointer with 9.2 seconds left from just inside the

half-court line. Booker went to the line and iced the game with a pair of free throws.

## **Pacers 111, Magic 106**

In Indianapolis, Domantas Sabonis scored 25 points, Aaron Holiday hit a go-ahead 3-pointer with 8.7 seconds left, and Indiana beat Orlando.

Holiday, who finished with 13 points, had missed three other attempts from beyond the arc before breaking a 106-all tie. After his big shot, brother Justin Holiday stole the inbounds pass, was fouled and hit both free throws with 3.6 seconds remaining.

The Pacers have won six of seven at home and 11 of their past 13 against the Magic, who are winless in six road games.

## **Bulls 116, Hornets 115**

In Charlotte, Zach LaVine had a career-high 49 points, including the winning 3-pointer with 0.8 seconds left to give Chicago the win over the Hornets.

LaVine, who questioned his relationship with coach Jim Boylen the previous night, shot 17 for 28 from the field, including 13 for 17 on 3s to tie an NBA record. Only Golden State’s Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson had previously made 13 from beyond

the arc in an NBA game. AP  
Memphis Grizzlies’ Dillon Brooks (24) guards Los Angeles Lakers’ Rajon Rondo (9) in the second half of an NBA game Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019, in Memphis, Tenn.

the arc in an NBA game.

Rookie Coby White added 28 points for the Bulls.

## **Spurs 111, Knicks 104**

In New York, LaMarcus Aldridge scored 23 points and San Antonio snapped its longest losing streak under coach Gregg Popovich at eight games by beating the Knicks.

The Spurs never trailed, led by as many as 28 and looked like the kind of team Popovich has usually had, not this one that has been one of the NBA’s worst defensively.

DeMar DeRozan added 21 points and nine rebounds for the Spurs.

## **Raptors 119, Hawks 116**

In Atlanta, Pascal Siakam scored 34 points and Fred VanVleet had 25, helping Toronto beat Trae Young and Atlanta.

Siakam has scored at least 30 in six games, one more than he had last season.

Norman Powell added 20 points for Toronto, which earned its third straight win.

Young had 30 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists in his second career triple-double, but Atlanta dropped its sixth straight game.

## **Cavaliers 110, Trail Blazers 104**

In Cleveland, Jordan Clarkson made all six of his 3-point attempts and scored 28 points, and the Cavaliers ended a six-game losing streak by beating Portland.

Tristan Thompson scored 25 points while Larry Nance Jr., who replaced the injured Kevin Love in the starting lineup, had 11 points and 12 rebounds.

Love, Cleveland’s leading scorer, missed his second game this week because of a sore back.

## **Jazz 128, Pelicans 120**

In Salt Lake City, Donovan Mitchell scored a season-high 37 points and Bojan Bogdanovic added 28 to help Utah overcome the absence of Rudy Gobert and outlast New Orleans.

Mitchell, who had six 3-pointers, sparked the Jazz to a quick start and Utah led the entire game.

Brandon Ingram scored 33 points for the Pelicans, and Jrue Holiday had 12 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter.

## *Kemba Walker has concussion-like symptoms*

**DENVER** (AP)—Boston Celtics guard Kemba Walker collided with teammate Semi Ojeleye late in the second quarter, striking Ojeleye’s abdomen area head-first and going down on to the court in a heap against the Denver Nuggets on Friday night.

In a tweet, the Celtics said Walker has been diagnosed with concussion-like symptoms. He was taken to a hospital for further evaluation.

Walker grimaced in pain as he went down and play was stopped as medical personnel from both teams tended to the star guard who was prone on the floor for several minutes.

His teammates gathered round as did Nuggets players, plainly concerned about Walker. A brace was placed around his neck to stabilize the area and he was strapped to a backboard before being placed onto a gurney and wheeled off the court.

Walker entered the game averaging a team-leading 22.6 points, 4.9 rebounds, and 4.8 assists in his first season with Boston.

Earlier this month, the Celtics lost Gordon Hayward to a fractured left hand. He suffered the injury when

he collided with LaMarcus Aldridge in a Nov. 9 game against San Antonio.

## **What’s next?**

A player in the concussion protocol can’t return to the floor until the following:

He is without concussion-related symptoms at rest; he has been evaluated by a physician; he has successfully completed the NBA return-to-participation exertion protocol; a team physician has discussed the return-to-participation process and decision with the director of the NBA concussion program.

Because every player with concussion-like symptoms is different, the decision as to when a player is fit to return will be made by the team physician. That decision will be based on Walker meeting certain benchmarks which give a clear indication that he’s ready to resume playing and be free of concussion-like symptoms.

While there’s no immediate timetable for when Walker will return, it’s almost a given he’ll miss some time if he winds up in the league’s concussion protocol. The Celtics play again Monday at home against the Sacramento Kings.



# Nadal brings Spain to Davis Cup Finals

**MADRID (AP)**—The revamped Davis Cup will reach its climax on Sunday, with Canada celebrating a historic first title or Spain lifting the trophy for the sixth time in front of its fans.

After two thrilling semifinals decided in tiebreakers of the doubles matches on Saturday, Spain outlasted Britain and Canada upset Russia to play for the title of the new Davis Cup Finals, the World Cup of tennis.

Rafael Nadal won his singles and doubles matches to lead Spain to a 2-1 comeback win over Britain, putting the hosts in the Davis Cup final for the first time since 2012.

Nadal and Feliciano Lopez defeated Jamie Murray and Neal Skupski, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (8) in the decisive doubles to clinch the victory for the five-time champions.

"It was an exciting match, almost dramatic," Nadal said. "We played at a high level. We knew the victory would come if we played with determination and hope."

Kyle Edmund gave Britain the lead with a 6-3, 7-6 (3) win over the 38-year-old Lopez in the first singles, then Nadal evened the semifinal by cruising past Daniel Evans 6-4, 6-0 for his 28th straight Davis Cup singles victory.

The top-ranked Nadal has won all six of his matches this week.

Britain did not use Andy Murray for the third straight day. The three-time Grand Slam champion won his opening singles but said he was not in his best shape.

Little separated the teams in the doubles on Caja Mágica's center court, with neither capitalizing on their break opportunities. Both sets lasted more



than an hour.

Spain prevailed in both tiebreakers before a boisterous home crowd after Britain squandered four set points in the second set, including three in the tiebreaker.

"We had our chances at the end," Jamie Murray said. "That one will hurt for a little while, I think."

Spain converted on its second match point.

"The crowd was amazing," Nadal said. "It's hard to de-

scribe the feeling of playing in a team competition in front of our fans on this court. It was incredible."

Spain has been playing without Roberto Bautista Agut, who had to leave the team because of the death of his father.

The British team complained that Spain made a late change for the first singles match, citing an injury to replace Pablo Carreño Busta by López.

"We've done really well to make the semis," Skupski said. "It's unfortunate we couldn't go a step further, but we'll be back here next year and try and go a bit further."

All four semifinalists are secured in next year's edition of the Davis Cup Finals, which is the result of a 25-year partnership between the International Tennis Federation and the investment group Kosmos to make the team competition more attractive and lucrative.

## Historic

Canada reached its maiden final in 106 years of playing the Davis Cup after Vasek Pospisil and Denis Shapovalov beat Karen Khachanov and Andrey Rublev 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (5) in another decisive doubles.

Rublev put the Russians ahead defeating Pospisil 6-4, 6-4 in the first singles, and Shapovalov evened the tie by downing Khachanov 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

In the doubles, the Canadi-

ans trailed 3-0 in the third-set tiebreaker but rallied and converted their second match point.

"Today was an incredible match," Pospisil said. "I mean, the doubles, just with the buildup, obviously getting to this moment the last five days, I mean, it took a lot of emotions even just to get to this match."

"It's pretty incredible to make the finals, first time in history for Canada. To do it the way it happened was pretty special to be a part of."

Pospisil and Shapovalov have played all of the matches for Canada, which won Group F by defeating former champions Italy and the United States, then eliminated another former champ Australia in the quarterfinals. It had never beaten the U.S. or Australia in the Davis Cup.

The Canadians impressed in Madrid without two of their top three players. Milos Raonic was out injured, and Felix Auger-Aliassime was with the team but also injured.

The 150th-ranked Pospisil did not drop a set in singles this week until his loss to Rublev. The 20-year-old Shapovalov, No. 15 in the world, also won three of his four singles.

Russia, which won the Davis Cup in 2002 and 2006, also used only Khachanov and Rublev.

"It hurts of course that we lost today, but overall we gave our best," Khachanov said. "We cannot complain that we didn't do something."



**HOUSTON**—Frustrated and disappointed, a golden opportunity lost, the Colts find themselves in a familiar place.

They're headed into the final month of the season with their backs against the wall, and it's going to take a finish almost as unbelievable as the one they pulled off last year to reach the playoffs.

That's the position they put themselves in, not because of Thursday night's 20-17 loss to the Houston Texans, but because of the losses they've already taken in November.

"This was billed, this was a playoff-game atmosphere," Colts coach Frank Reich said. "It was a good opportunity for us to take sole possession and have a sweep on Houston. It didn't work out that way."

The Colts (6-5) can't be left

## Bad losses have Colts outside of playoff picture

for dead yet.

Not this team, still mostly made up of the guys who clawed their way back from 1-5 last season, got on an unbelievable roll that took them all the way to the divisional round of the playoffs. As long as Reich's in charge and those guys are in control, there is still potential to turn this season around.

"The message was, there's still plenty of football left," Reich said. "And the message was also, we've got the guys in the room to do this. We're playing good up front on both sides of the ball. We can go as far as we want to go."

But the Colts have to find a way to bounce back after coughing up their golden opportunity to erase the stumbles that put them in this position.

Indianapolis entered Thursday night's game with losses to an uneven Steelers team playing without Ben Roethlisberger, a Chargers team that has disappointed and a hapless Miami team that's built to lose, even if it's not playing that way.

A win over Deshaun Watson and the Texans would have given the Colts first place in the AFC South, a season sweep over Houston and a chance to put the division to bed when both teams get back to work at the start of December.

They had it in their hands. For a little while in the second half, Indianapolis led, had a banged-up Texans defense on its heels and Watson somewhat corralled. As ugly as the Colts had looked at times this season, Indianapolis looked like it was on its way to a

fourth consecutive win over its chief AFC South rival, a backbreaking blow to a team already battered by injury.

And then it all fell apart.

Even without Marlon Mack, the Colts running game ground out 175 yards, but it wasn't able to finish drives. A defense that has staked its reputation on taking away the big play suddenly started hemorrhaging in the second half, undone by Watson and his talented pair of receivers, DeAndre Hopkins and Will Fuller. A less-than-100 percent T.Y. Hilton and an underwhelming Jacoby Brissett couldn't mount a counterpunch.

A chance to atone for all the mistakes they made against the Chargers and Raiders and Steelers and Dolphins, and now the Colts find themselves

in a position that's precarious and all-too-familiar.

Houston has the edge, by virtue of a game in the standings, wins over common opponents and schedules that are essentially the same down the stretch. Indianapolis also finds itself in trouble in the crowded AFC wild card race, those losses to the Raiders and Steelers looming large.

"We've just got to keep our head down," linebacker Darius Leonard said. "Keep our head down and keep digging."

That's the approach Reich was preaching in the locker room after the game, the mantra that has carried this team in the first two seasons of his tenure, the focus on going 1-0 each week that helped pull them out of the pit a season ago.

"The message, our focus, is

win the next one," Reich said. "That's all that matters."

But in a quiet, somber locker room at NRG Stadium, it's clear that this one hurt, that the Colts realize they let a golden opportunity slip through their fingers.

Indianapolis now has a long weekend, 10 days to rally, to reset its season after losing three of its last four games and find the momentum that carried the Colts into the playoffs a year ago. No team knows better that a season can turn itself around, just like that, and tight end Eric Ebron was already beginning to turn the page as he walked off the field.

"The war isn't over."

Ebron's right.

But the Colts' backs are against the wall, and if they're going to make the playoffs, it's going to take a Herculean effort.

An effort that wouldn't have been necessary if they'd pulled off this win.



# Mt. Carmel 2 slips past Chacha 2

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
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REPORTER



Mount Carmel School 2 topped Chacha Oceanview Middle School 2 in their game in the 2019-2020 Public School System Interscholastic Girls Middle School Volleyball League last Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Lady Knights needed three tough sets to triumph against Chacha 2. In the first set, Mt. Carmel 2 eked out a 21-20 victory. Chacha 2 then averted Mt. Carmel 2's bid for a sweep after prevailing in

the second set, 21-16. In the deciding third set, the Lady Knight regained their form and notched a 15-10 win.

In other results last week, Hopwood Middle School swept its opponents.

In the match pitting Hopwood 3 against MCS 1, the former came out victorious,

taking the win in straight sets. Hopwood 3 won by 6 in the first set, 21-15, and completed the sweep second set, 21-17.

Hopwood 1 also took only two sets to beat Francisco M. Sablan Middle School. The Hilitais claimed the first set 21-17, and finished the game early with a 21-18 victory in the second.

Hopwood 2's match with Tanapag Middle School proved to be the most challenging for the Hilitais, as the game was only decided after three sets. Tanapag won the

set, 21-19, before the Hilitais battled back in the set, 21-14. Hopwood 2 completed the come-from-behind win with a 15-9 triumph in the third.

Meanwhile, Chacha 1, Agape Christian School, Saipan International School, and Grace Christian Academy also played last Wednesday.

Chacha 1 and Agape also played an extended game with Chacha 1 drawing first blood, 21-18. Agape bounced back in the second set, 21-10, but Chacha 1 still emerged victorious

in the end after taking the deciding third, 15-11.

In the SIS-GCA tiff, the Lady Eagles had a straight sets victory, 23-14, 21-14.

Games in the middle school volleyball competition will resume this Wednesday with Hopwood 1 taking on Mt. Carmel 1, Hopwood 3 battling FMS, and Chacha 1 dueling Dandan 2 on the north court. On the southern end, it will be SIS vs Dandan 1; Chacha 2 against Tanapag, and Hopwood 2 over Mt. Carmel 1.

## Tagaman Triathlon set for March 21

The 2020 Tagaman Triathlon will be held on March 21.

Registration is available online at [www.saipantriathlon.com](http://www.saipantriathlon.com) or [www.webscorer.com](http://www.webscorer.com) by searching the event name or Race ID 198830. The early bird registration fee through Jan. 14, 2020, is \$95/solo and \$225/team.

Tagaman is an annual signature event of the Marianas Visitors Authority and aimed at attracting visiting athletes and media to the tropical shores of The Marianas. The event is co-organized by MVA and Triathlon Association of the CNMI.

"The MVA is pleased to again be partnering with TRAC in bringing Tagaman 2020 to the local and international triathlon community," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo.

"TRAC has done a tremendous job since our partnership began in continuing to provide a world-class race and unforgettable experience for the competitors, while also engaging more community support and volunteers in this annual signature event for The Marianas. We're looking forward to another great race in 2020," she added.

With its 2-kilometer swim, 60K bike, and 15K bike legs, Tagaman is named for the ancient indigenous Chamorro Chief Taga, renowned for his legendary feats of strength. Tagaman welcomes athletes of all levels and ages.

The starting point and swim leg will be at the Minachom Atdao in Susupe. Bikers will then transition at Kilili Pavilion parking lot in

Susupe, head south to Airport Road, north to Banzai Cliff, and back south to Minachom Atdao Pavilion for the finish line.

"Tagaman will continue to evolve as a unique triathlon on par with international event you can find elsewhere," TRAC president Florence Antonio said.

Cash prizes await the Top 3 finishers in the women's and men's open categories: \$1,000 for first place, \$700 for second place, and \$500 for third place. Medals and T-shirts will be awarded to all finishers.

Beginning Jan. 15, 2020, registration will jump to \$135/solo and \$245/relay team, while rates will again increase on Mar. 1, 2019, to \$165/solo and \$285/relay team. The last day to register is March 18.

Early sponsors for the 31st Tagaman triathlon are Kanoa Resort Saipan as the official hotel, Neo Timing System, and KFC Triathlon Club of Japan. Tagaman race series events to prepare for the main event will be announced in the coming months.

Japanese pro Yu Shinozaki is the defending champion in Tagaman after ruling the 2019 race, as he timed in at 2:48:39. In the women's division, the 2019 winner was Guam's Manami Iijima, who clocked in at 3:12:12. (PR)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

An off-island athlete gets out of the water during the swim leg of the 2019 Tagaman Triathlon.



## CHAVEZ

From Page 28

20, before the final game in the double-round robin competition last Nov. 16. Costales then ended up firing seven goals in their 9-2 win over Matansa in

a match ahead of Kanoa's last game to gain more cushion. The Shirley's top player kept the lead for good, as Joyce later scored only two goals in their 3-2 title win over TanHoldings FC.

Matansa's Janah Casarino (13), Southern United's Erin

Frink (12), and MP United's Audrey Castro (11) and Maury Zon Tybaco (11) rounded out the Top 5 in the Golden Boot contest. Southern United's Keisha Deleon Guerrero was the seventh player to get at least 10 goals this season.

## JOETEN

From Page 28

faced TDI in Game 2. Results of last night's match were unavailable at press time.

Alex Lauron top-scored in Joeten 1's Game 1 victory after recording 12 points. Five other Joeten 1 players chipped in at least 10 markers each with Lilles,

Vince Teregeyo, and Kabiriel adding 11 each and Sydney Quan and Rotap logging 10 apiece.

Barbo carried the load for TDI with his 26 markers. Rabasto recorded 16, while Velasco had 11.

In other results, RNV Best Deal took the third place trophy after winning by default against Triple J.

**Joeten 1 85**—Lauron 12, Lilles 11, Teregeyo 11, Kabiriel 11, Rotap 10, Quan 10, Duenas 6, Sambile 6, Agustin 5, Tobias 3.

**Top Development Inc. 66**—Barbo 26, Rabasto 16, Velasco 11, Barros 6, Reyes 2, Polisco 2, Arreza 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 27-16, 42-40, 65-55, 85-66.

## CAROL

From Page 28

silver from the 2019 Pacific Games held in Apia, Samoa last summer.

Lee competed in her first local tournament since winning a gold medal (mixed doubles with Sinclair) in Samoa and traveling in Asia, Europe, and Pacific Oceania for ITF Juniors events and she nearly missed the contest sanctioned by the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association and backed by the Tan Siu Lin Foundation.

The world-ranked No. 125 left Saipan for Atlanta early last week to visit Georgia Tech, one of the many schools she checked, as she prepares to play in the collegiate ranks. Lee was then scheduled to return to Saipan early Saturday morning so she initially decided to forfeit her first game in the division, as it was scheduled just a couple of hours after she touched down at the Francisco M. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

Lee, however, reconsidered her earlier decision, as she arrived ahead of schedule and organizers moved her first match a couple of hours later. Incidentally, the 17-year-old dueled Race in the quarterfinals and won, 6-2, 6-0. Race reached the Round of 8 after taking Isaac Heo to school with a 6-0, 6-0.

Next up for Lee was Ji Min Woo, who marched into

the semifinals after eliminating Kevin Wang, 6-1, 6-3. In the semis of the upper half of the bracket, Lee extended her winning streak after downing the No. 3 seed Woo, 6-4, 6-0.

At the lower half of the draw, Schorr also did not drop a single set en route to moving into the finals. He first notched a 6-2, 6-0 triumph over Sam Ryu—a 6-3, 6-2 winner over Jun Cheol Hwang in the opening round game last Friday. Schorr then ousted No. 4 Ken

Song, 6-4, 6-1, to set up a finals date with Lee.

The Schorr-Lee championship showdown was scheduled at 9:30am, but started about an hour late due to rain. The delay and a few more showers, however, did not prevent the Pacific Games gold medalists from showing why they are the top junior players in the CNMI and one of the best in Pacific Oceania, as they engaged in a nip-and-tuck game.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Robbie Schorr serves to Carol Lee during their men's 5.0 singles game in the 10th TanHoldings Tennis Classic yesterday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan courts.





MLB widens  
probe on Astros,  
'firm' discipline  
possible

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

Lakers top  
Grizzlies for 7th  
straight win

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Carol survives Robbie in finale

## Chavez, Costales get Golden Boot awards



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Shirley's Football Club's Katrina Costales, left, and MP United FC's Audrey Castro chase the ball during one of their girls U16 games in the 2019 NMIFA Fall Youth League at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

TanHoldings Football Club's Kaithlyn Chavez and Shirley's Football Club's Katrina Costales scored the most goals in the 2019 NMIFA Fall Youth League to bag the Golden Boot awards in their respective age groups.

Chavez collected 28 goals in nine games in the co-ed U12 division to take the individual top honors this season. She made it on the board in all of TanHoldings' matches, saving the best for last, as she delivered four in their 10-4 triumph over Kanoa Football Club last Nov. 16.

The TanHoldings striker led by six goals against the division's No. 2 scorer and her teammate, Mark Costales, who tallied 16. With Chavez and Costales on target in the three-round robin

contest, TanHoldings finished the season unbeaten in nine games.

Meanwhile, Kanoa's Paul Lizama and Rigel Devey and MP United's Miles Linden were the other players in the division to make at least 10 goals this season after recording 15, 10, and 12, respectively.

Completing the Top 10 in the Golden Boot race were TanHoldings' Monico Claridades (8), MP United's William Lee (7), Shirley's FC's Jayvin Bisek (6) and Arif Khan (5), and MP United's Xavier Lee (5).

In the girls U16 division, Costales surpassed long-time leader and the favored Paulyn Joyce of Kanoa FC, as the former earned 28 against the latter's 22.

Costales was clinging to a 1-point lead over Joyce, 21-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Carol Lee stretches for a return to Robbie Schorr during their men's 5.0 singles game in the 10th TanHoldings Tennis Classic yesterday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan courts.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

A good crowd showed up for the men's 5.0 singles title game between Carol Lee and Robbie Schorr and the CNMI's top junior players did not disappoint the spectators, as they went back-and-forth in the extended finale yesterday in the 10th TanHoldings Tennis Classic at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan courts.

The No. 2 seed Schorr took the first set, 7-5, but No. 1 Lee rallied and foiled the former's upset bid with a 7-5 triumph in the second. Then for the supertie-breaker set of the rain-delayed title match, the two finalists were still neck-

and-neck before Lee

escaped with an 11-9 victory to complete the comeback.

"What a match!

Everyone who came to the court to watch the finals was treated to a high-level tennis



game. It's one of those best matches I've ever seen. Carol played great, Robbie played great, and it could

have gone either way," many-time CNMI national coach Jeff Race, who was with Lee

and Schorr when the Commonwealth crew (along with Colin Sinclair, Isabel Heras, Tania Tan, Ken Song, and Malika Miyawaki) brought home three gold medals and one

See CAROL on Page 27

## Joeten 1 cruises past TDI in finals opener

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
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REPORTER

Joeten 1 out-classed Top Development Inc., 85-66, in Game 1 of their title series in the 2018 JP World Corp. Customer Appreciation Basketball League last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Joeten 1 was in control of the opener of the best-of-three finals and maintained the lead over TDI, ensuring it didn't give the latter an opportunity to make a comeback.

Patrick Rotap drilled two of Joeten 1's three triples in the first quarter and the team drew contributions from six other players to build an early double-digit lead after 10 minutes



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Joeten 1's Vince Teregeyo, left, and K.J. Kabiriel, right steps in on defense against a driving Sean Rabasto of Top Development, Inc. during Game 2 of their title series in the 2018 JP World Corp. Customer Appreciation Basketball League last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

of play, 27-16.

Top Development, Inc., after a so-so performance in the first period, picked up its scoring a bit in the second canto

behind the trio of Darwin Barbo, Sean Rabasto, and Raymond Velasco to cut the deficit to a duce at the break, 40-42.

However, that was the clos-

est that TDI could get, as Joeten 1 buckled down to work in the second half to regain the double-digit advantage. Chris Lilles made Joeten 1's first 6 points in the third canto, while his teammates took over the rest of the penultimate frame to up their lead to 66-55.

TDI, after threatening Joeten 1 in the second frame, fell behind by twin digits anew, as Rabasto, Barbo, and Velasco failed to get support from their teammates in the third quarter.

Then in the fourth period, TDI's offense turned from bad to worse, as it was held to 11 points and five field goals, while Joeten 1 continued to draw contributions from multiple players to ease its way to victory.

Joeten 1 was gunning for the finals sweep last night, as it

See JOETEN on Page 27